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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Woman hurt in Finasisu fire

TRAVIS HURST
Fire engulfs the apartment building located near the Northern Marianas College gymnasium in Finasisu early Saturday morning.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» $300K worth of property destroyed; person who leased building in prison for 'ice' case

A woman was injured when a mysterious fire broke out early Saturday morning at several apartment units along Tun Antonio Apa Road near the Northern Marianas College's gymnasium in Finasisu, destroying an estimated $300,000 worth of properties.

The woman, a Chinese national, sustained second-degree burns on the feet and left arm and first-degree burns on the right arm, according to Department of Public Safety spokesman Travis Hurst.

Hurst said the woman was screaming from inside the building and was then seen jumping through a glass window.

Hurst said two police officers quickly helped evacuate the woman, who was treated at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Saipan Tribune learned that the one-story building is owned by Thomas Dueñas and leased to a certain Mr. Wang, a Chinese man who was one of seven persons arrested in February by local and federal enforcers for allegedly trafficking in methamphetamine or "ice."

DPS Fire Division has yet to release details about the incident.

The blaze, which was reported to police at 1:49am, totally burned the interior of the semi-concrete one-story building that has 15 to 16 units, two kitchens, and a warehouse. The fire also damaged the right side of a Land Cruiser owned by Mr. Wang that was in the parking lot of the building.

Firefighters from two fire trucks were still trying to put out the blaze when *Saipan Tribune* left the scene at 3:50pm. A fire truck was still at the scene at 8am, with thick smoke still drifting from the burned out hulk of the building.

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Saipan casino back to 2 applicants

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Lottery Commission reconsiders rejection of Marianas Stars application

It's back to two Saipan casino applicants after the Lottery Commission reconsidered Friday its earlier decision to reject Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc.'s application upon closer review of law-imposed deadlines, among other things. The commission, however, gave two conditions; the first of which has already been met by Marianas Stars when it rewired $30 million in escrow.

The second condition is for Marianas Stars to present before the commission, and the public, portions of its business plan during the commission's meeting on Tuesday at 10am on Capital Hill. The investor group said Friday it is ready to make its Tuesday presentation.

By a 3-1 vote on Friday noon, the four-member Lottery Commission gave Marianas Stars—just like Best Sunshine International Ltd.—a chance to compete for a license to exclusively develop a minimum $2 billion integrated resort with casino on Saipan.

The three "yes" votes to a motion to reconsider the May 8 rejection decision and reaccept Marianas Stars' application came from Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar, Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, and Deputy Attorney General Gil Birnbrich.

The lone "no" vote was from Pub-

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'Suspicious' package turns out to be 'just papers, stuff'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Homeland security and other law enforcement agencies sprang into action on Friday afternoon when a "suspicious" mail package was received at the Office of the Governor's mail room, making the CNMI the latest to receive a package similar to those sent to governors of U.S. states and territories including Guam on May 7. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the package was isolated, opened, and checked for any hazardous materials and turned out to contain papers, like the packages received by his counterparts in other parts of the U.S.

"It's standard procedure," the governor told reporters at an agricultural month proclamation signing at the Sabalu Market, referring to any suspicious package received.

Inos said the CNMI homeland security got advance notice that should they receive any such suspicious package, just like what other state and territorial governor's offices received, they should isolate the package and assess any possible threat.

"Some governors have received similar packages…they were cleared. They opened it up and checked it out, wanted to make sure they're not hazardous materials and so forth," Inos said.

When asked what the contents were, the governor said, "Just papers and stuff like that."

Press secretary Angel Demapan separately said on Saturday that the CNMI governor's office may have been the ninth among U.S. states and territories to receive a suspicious package.

Yesterday, the press secretary issued

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POLL RESULTS
Should the statements of financial interest of public officials be made public?

Yes	218
No	22
Maybe	5
No opinion	4

Sunday, February 3, 2013

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LOCAL

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Vietnamese authorities forcibly break up small protests against China. ➤ PAGE 19

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Isabella, Jeremiah most popular baby names in NMI, Guam. PAGE 8

Local

6 top balloon-popping contest at Taste of Marianas

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Twenty individuals signed up for a balloon-popping competition last Saturday as the 2014 Taste of Marianas entered its third week. In the end, only six emerged victorious in the two balloon-popping competitions.

The first competition was for ages 14-and-under; 10 children entered the competition.

In this competition, contestants were to explode as many balloons as they can by sitting on them. Inside every balloon was a piece of paper and, among the dozens of balloons, only three pieces of paper held the possible winners.

After nearly a 10-minute sit-and-pop competition, the winners were Miku Kimura, Maya Shimizu, and Miles Timmons.

The second competition was for ages 15 and up and was much harder this time around. All 10 contestants had five uninflated balloons in front of them. They were required to blow the balloon and then pop them.

After a non-stop bout of inhaling and exhaling and pain in the contestants' mouths, three also emerged victorious, all of them women. In first place was Wheng Javan, in second place was Rustine Kate Valino, and in third place was Ezeth Smith.

Ages 15 and up balloon-popping participants pose with top three finishers, from left to right, Wheng Javan (1st place), Rustine Kate Valino (2nd), and Ezeth Smith (3rd).

JAYSON CAMACHO

Ages 14 and down participants pose with top three finishers in competition, front row, left to right, Miku Kimura (1st), Maya Shimizu (2nd), and third place finisher Miles Timmons (back row, second from left).

JAYSON CAMACHO

Both competitions had prizes for first place, which was $30 worth of Taste of the Marianas tokens, $20 for second, and $10 for third.

Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman said the tokens could either be exchanged for tokens or cash.

The three young winners of the competition said they would redeem the tokens and give it to their friends to buy food. Kimura also won in the first week of Taste of the Marianas in the hot-dog eating competition where she came in third place.

Wheng Javan who won first place in the ages 15-and-up category said it was fun and her lips were hurting.

MVA community projects assistant Ryan Calvo, who coordinated the competitions for the past three weeks, said the balloon-popping contest was the last event for the public to get involved in. Next week's competition is the bartender challenge. Details will soon be out for the bartender competition.

Bateman said he had a blast being the announcer and it felt like he was in the World Wrestling Federation.

"MVA is blessed to be able to host a fine event and help visitors and this event is one of the best things and I'd like to recognize the staff of the American Memorial Park and Division of Parks and Recreations for making the place look good," Bateman said.

Tourism Topics

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

Popular Korean reality show *We Got Married* airs on Saipan

The popular Korean reality show "We Got Married" will air episodes filmed in Saipan on May 17, 24, and 31, 2014. The show, first broadcast in 2008, pairs Korean celebrities to show what life would be like if they were married. Each week, couples are assigned missions/tasks to complete.

While in Saipan, "We Got Married" filmed at Saipan International Airport, the Garapan Street Market, I Love Saipan store, Godfather's and Managaha.

The show also features a cruise wedding and stargazing at Banzai Cliff. The filming was supported by the Marianas Visitors Authority, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Asiana Airlines.

The three airings of the show are expected to bring the Northern Mariana Islands over $6-million in advertising exposure.

Saipan Tinian Rota

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

PSS execs say Hopwood relocation plan warrants dialogue

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A possible plan to relocate Hopwood Junior High School to give way for new multi-million casino resort was no big surprise for the Public School System, with education officials admitting that the idea has been tossed around by the Inos administration in informal meetings since late 2013.

Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan confirmed this on Friday, adding, however, that no formal correspondence about this was officially transmitted to the board and PSS.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos told reporters last week about the potential use of the Hopwood campus as a viable site for a casino, which requires the building of at least 2,000 rooms and a minimum $2 billion integrated resort.

Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* Friday that even in the initial conversations with the governor on the issue, he made the concerns of the board very clear.

"Even if PSS wants to give it up, the question is: Where are you going to give us land with the same size of Hopwood? And before we give it up, we want a state-of-the-art facility, including accessories that goes with it," said Guerrero.

He pointed out that the board has not made a decision on this issue. But assuming the BOE will ever decide, Guerrero said that there should be a ready school for the students to occupy.

It was earlier said that the winning investor will have to shoulder Hopwood's relocation.

If this will be the case, Guerrero said, "then it will be on our terms."

Based on his inquiries of other public lands that may potentially be used as a school campus, Guerrero said an agricultural property in As Perdido—described as much larger than the Hopwood campus—came up.

As for the possibility of using instead the property earlier identified for the new Koblerville Junior High School, Guerrero said no. He said the government only has a "lease" on the land and the property remains owned by private individuals.

According to Sablan, if PSS were to build a new campus the same size as Hopwood, the cost would range between $15 million and $20 million.

"If we will be relocated, show us the property because we need an equal value or better [than the Hopwood campus]. I don't want to move kids to the mountains, to the deep side. That property has to be close to the community," said Sablan.

She disclosed that the Hopwood campus is far larger than the 44,000-square-meter property designated for PSS' use in As Matuis.

Hopwood serves students from seven elementary schools including Garapan, Oleai, William S. Reyes, San Antonio, Koblerville, and San Vicente elementary schools.

Sablan vowed that before a decision is made on the plan, there has to be series of dialogues among stakeholders.

"There's a process that has to be involved here. We need to sit down and discuss what's really in the best interest of our students. If they're saying that the campus is good for casino, then I will say that a campus is also best for our kids," she said.

Hopwood is located in the village of Chalan Piao. In 1962, Hopwood opened for grades 7 through 12. When Marianas High School opened in 1969, Hopwood became a junior high school. Through the years, the institution has gone through many reconstructive renovations, especially as typhoons, termites, and age deteriorated the building structures.

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FIRE

From Page 1

Dueñas, who owns the building, lives with his family in a two-story house behind the apartment units. The fire did not spread to his house.

Dueñas said he maintained the building because the person who leased it is still in prison.

Dueñas said that prior to the fire, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. crew checked the building a couple of times because the power would go on and off.

On Friday night, the Northern Marianas College celebrated its Charter Day. The event's stage was put up just across Dueñas' apartment units.

Duenas said he was checking the apartment units early Saturday morning when he saw fire in the bedroom of a unit occupied by his brother-in-law in the back part of the building. He learned that his brother-in-law had been drinking with three other men on Friday night inside the unit.

Duenas said he has yet to talk to his brother-in-law since the fire broke out. He said the door to his brother-in-law's unit was open when the fire broke out, but he was not there.

He said he immediately told his wife to call 911 as he tried to extinguish the blaze. He then shouted and banged the doors and windows to call the attention of the apartments' occupants.

He said there are nine people occupying the apartment building, including his brother-in-law and cousin.

The Chinese woman, who was injured, apparently failed to wake up immediately because she came home late after work. She then jumped through the window of her unit. Before the fire, the woman had reportedly injured her legs at work.

TRAVIS HURST

Fire quickly spread to the entire building and damaged a Land Cruiser that is owned by the person who leases the building. The man is currently in prison on drug charges.

Dueñas said that firefighters arrived 30 to 40 minutes after their call. He said if the firefighters came early, most units in the building could probably have been saved because the fire started in the back part of the building.

He said the two responding fire trucks came from the northern side of the island—San Roque and Kagman—instead of from Susupe or Koblerville, which are only five minutes away from their place.

A Chinese man who occupies one of the units said he was sleeping when he heard shouting and that he later saw smoke in the building.

The man, who asked for anonymity, said the lights in the building were off and he realized there was fire as felt the heat and smoke.

"I ran out [through] the window," he said, adding that the injured woman also jumped out from the window of her unit.

DPS fire investigators are still looking into the cause of the blaze.

The front portion of the apartment building used to be occupied by No. Wang College Store and PC Café. The establishments were raided by Drug Enforcement Task Force in March 2010 after Yu Hua Wang, who reportedly worked at the time at the store, allegedly sold "ice" to a confidential informant.

The case against Wang was subsequently dismissed by the Superior Court.

The establishments were then changed to Iron Work Café, but it never opened.

It was not clear yet whether it was Yu Hua Wang who leased the building. Of the seven suspects arrested in February for drug trafficking, three had the same last names, Wang.

Rota law sets aside $33K for patients, other programs

Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed into law on Friday a local bill appropriating $33,100 in poker license fees for Rota patients and other programs. Rep. Teresita Santos' (R-Rota) House Local Bill 18-53, Draft 1 is now Rota Local Law 18-12.

The new local law sets aside $26,400 for Rota patients undergoing dialysis and treatment for other terminal illnesses outside Rota. The subsistence allowance shall not exceed $450 a month.

Of the total amount, $2,500 is for the Rota Municipal Scholarship Fund pursuant to Rota Local Law 17-2. The other $1,200 is to reimburse a prior appropriation shortfall for hemodialysis and terminally ill patients' subsistence allowance.

The remaining $3,000 is to cover some of the expenses related to the celebration of *Mes Man'Amko* such as air fare, hotel lodging, and van rental for ground transportation. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

PACKAGE

From Page 1

more details about the incident. He said it was at approximately 1pm on Friday that mail room personnel at the Office of the Governor reported the receipt of a suspicious mail package.

"The area was isolated to the governor's office mail room and CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management along with the Department of Public Safety quickly closed access to the immediate areas for safety reasons," Demapan said.

A similar package was sent to the Guam Office of the Governor on May 7, based on Guam media reports. The Guam Homeland Security and the Office of Civil Defense gave the "All Clear" after an inspection of the suspicious package found that it was not a threat. Idaho's governor's office has also been among the recent ones to receive such a package.

Demapan said the package these other offices received matched the description of the package found on Friday.

"Every suspicious mail or package is handled as a serious threat by local and federal authorities. In recent years we have since received, in our case this past week, something as simple as a book, but there can be more aggressive and deadly situations involving bombs, anthrax, and ricin. It is this broad spectrum that concerns us all," he said.

Through collaboration with partners such as the Marianas Regional Fusion Center, the CNMI was provided information ahead of time on the possible arrival of the suspicious package, Demapan said.

"Through this partnership, the CNMI was able to effectively identify, respond, and address the situation right away. No other details are available at this time as the matter has been classified as an active and ongoing investigation," he added.

CASINO

From Page 1

lic Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero.

Commission counsel Jim Stump said a written decision will be issued shortly.

Igisomar said Saturday that the written decision that will answer the "why" and "how" could be issued as early as today.

Attorney Sean Frink, one of the counsels for Marianas Stars, along with Marcia Schultz, spent some 20 minutes explaining to the Lottery Commission on Friday morning why the investor group thinks their application should not have been rejected on May 8 and why their competitor's application should have been rejected earlier on, claiming the commission misapplied or misinterpreted the deadlines set by Public Laws 18-38 and 18-43.

The commission also voted Friday to amend the contracts with casino investigator B2G Global Strategies and gaming consultant The Innovation Group of Companies, following the reconsideration of the second investor group's casino application.

The original contract was "not more than $400,000" for both U.S.-based consultants. The amended contracts are not expected to exceed half a million, as of Saturday.

'Give it a chance'

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, when sought for comment on Saturday at the Sabalu Market about the commission's Friday reconsideration of Marianas Stars as a casino applicant, said both applicants "go through the vetting process."

Inos earlier said Friday he doesn't think those who oppose casino on Saipan do so with the intention of preventing retirees from getting their 25 percent deferred pension and for other government employees to get the interest on their withdrawn retirement contribution. But he said "that's going to be the consequence."

The governor said some people are "hiding behind the technicality and forgetting about the good things that this project will bring about to the community, not just retirees, but everyone in general."

"[If] this thing is shot down for whatever reason, I don't think we'll ever see this opportunity again…a project of this magnitude that would allow for us to be able to address many of the pressing issues. Casino is not the ultimate answer but it is the only available alternative at the moment. For those folks, the naysayers, I'm going to ask them, give this project a chance. There are already things lined up how this project will benefit the community, from the retirees to the subsidy of LEAC, Public School System, land compensation and so forth. These are issues that have never been addressed for the longest time," Inos said in an interview while the Lottery Commission was having an executive session on Capital Hill on Friday.

Deadlines

The Lottery Commission rejected Marianas Stars' application on May 8, saying it didn't deposit $30 million in escrow "on time," referring to a May 5 deadline.

Marianas Stars, through Frink, said a correct interpretation of the law, P.L. 18-43, puts the deadline on May 16 to deposit $30 million in escrow. May 16, he said, is the 45th day from the April 1 signing of P.L. 18-43, which amended the original casino law or P.L. 18-38. He said P.L. 18-43 changed the deadlines set by P.L. 18-38.

Frink also showed a copy of his email to commission counsel Jim Stump—dated April 7, which is ahead of both the $1 million application fee and $30 million escrow deposit deadline—that states Frink's concerns about the announced deadlines that were not the same as the ones imposed by law.

"Also, just following the deadlines imposed by the law could avoid potential problems related to someone filing after the RFP deadline but before the deadlines imposed by the law," he said.

The commission didn't change the deadlines in the RFP.

In addressing the commission on Friday, Frink said a correct interpretation of P.L. 18-38 would place the 30-day deadline to submit an application and pay the $1 million application fee on April 20, a Sunday. That is 30 days from the March 21 signing of the original Saipan casino law.

Marianas Stars deposited the $1 million application fee and submitted the application on April 17, while Best Sunshine submitted theirs on April 21. Frink said Best Sunshine missed the April 20 deadline.

"With all due respect, but the law determines the deadlines. This commission can't extend deadlines, this commission can't shorten the deadlines," Frink told the commissioners.

Despite concerns over the commission's announced deadlines, Marianas Stars tried to meet the commission's May 5 deadline. However, when Marianas attempted to deposit $30 million on May 5, a Hong Kong bank "balks," Frink said.

A day later or on May 6, they proposed to the commission an amended escrow instruction.

Frink said Marianas Stars has been trying to engage the commission "and try to explain to you why we think the rejection of our application is a mistake and that we respect your authority."

"Make no mistake. We don't think you're making this decision for the wrong reason. We just think you didn't know all the information you needed. And we think it's in everybody's best interest that you reconsider it this morning," he said.

After Frink addressed the commission, the latter went into an executive session. When the commission came out of the executive session, Marianas Stars executives and the media were back in the room, and that's when a motion to reconsider Marianas Stars' application was offered and voted on.

Cario Hon of Marianas Stars, flanked by other executives of the investor group and their consultant, later told reporters that they are "very happy to hear" about the commission's reconsideration of its earlier decision.

Hon said there may have been "misunderstanding" or "misleading" communication that occurred, leading to the commission's original decision.

"We will try our best…We are very confident in our project," Hon said. He added that Marianas Stars will not deviate from its written business plan submitted to the commission on May 5.

He said Marianas Stars has been checking out possible properties for their project, should they be granted a license to develop an integrated resort with casino on Saipan.

Marianas Stars owns 25 percent of Mega Stars Overseas, which now owns Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. Mega Stars continues its improvement and expansion plans for Tinian.

Best Sunshine chief operating officer Terence Tay also told the media that they have been looking around for possible sites for their proposed project should they get a casino license.

The governor and Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio are hoping that whoever gets the license would look to private properties first before setting their sights on public lands.

Marianas Stars and Best Sunshine each plan to build an integrated resort with casino and with at least 2,000 guest rooms, with a minimum investment of $2 billion.

Camacho wants quick resolution of lawsuit over casino law

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho wants to immediately resolve Ramon K. Quichocho's taxpayer's lawsuit that questioned the constitutionality of the two-month-old casino law.

At a status hearing on Friday, Camacho cited the need to quickly resolve Quichocho's lawsuit because many retirees are interested in getting the matter resolved.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, during the GOP kickoff rally on March 23, 2014, announced the signing of Public Law 18-38 (as amended by P.L. 18-43) or the casino law and made a promise to return the 25 percent the administration slashed from retirees' pensions in connection with the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action.

Camacho granted Quichocho's request to hold the temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction hearings at the same time on May 27 at 9am.

Assistant attorneys general David Lochabay, Teresita Sablan, and Reena Patel appeared for the government, Gov. Eloy Inos in his individual capacity, and the Commonwealth Lottery Commission, respectively.

Quichocho cited Rep. Janet Maratita's (Ind-Saipan) lawsuit against former Gov. Benigno R. Fitial over the power purchase agreement, when the government agreed to waive a TRO hearing to save time sending and answering to subpoenas.

Quichocho, who also served as counsel for Maratita in that case, suggested that Inos, the CNMI government, and the Commonwealth Lottery Commission agree to the issuance of a TRO without a hearing.

Lochabay, however, opposed this, saying it's a different case and circumstances.

Camacho asked Quichocho to submit his pleadings by May 20, 2014, and allowed the defendants to respond by May 26.

Camacho also disclosed to Quichocho that his brother, Rep. George Camacho (R-Saipan), was mentioned in the lawsuit, although he's not a defendant. Quichocho said there may be a conflict and that he will look into it.

Camacho also disclosed that he used to be a counsel for the NMI Retirement Fund and that his wife, Viola Alepuyo, is counsel for the Fund. Quichocho said he needs to further research that issue too.

Quichocho filed the lawsuit on Wednesday for himself and on behalf of CNMI taxpayers. The lawyer is suing Inos and co-defendants for alleged violation of the NMI Constitution, illegal expenditure of public funds, breach of fiduciary duty, and breach of trust.

Quichocho stated in his complaint that this case is about "an unconstitutional casino law that was passed only by the votes of some conflicted representatives in the House, and only by the votes of some conflicted senators, and signed by conflicted governor."

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Inspirational life stories cap 'Heroes-to-Teachers Week'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System's weeklong celebration of Heroes-to-Teachers Week was capped Friday by inspirational stories shared by once troubled and undecided youths who found their purpose and calling in life through the program.

Speaking in front of a huge crowd at the crowded Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort, Jordan Jucutan and Rosa Camacho led peers in relating meaningful life stories that they hope would inspire more people.

"Growing up, I was surrounded by people who never believed in me. I was always told that I was dumb. My teachers told me that the D on my grade meant 'dumb.' I was also being compared to my siblings. I was laughed at because I was not doing good in school. At that time, I had no motivation to excel in school or even excel in life. I grew up not believing in myself. I was always put down," said Jucutan.

Soon after graduating from high school, Jucutan joined the military. He came back after basic training and went on a job hunt. Though he landed a part-time job, he felt that wasn't enough.

"During our monthly drill for the military, one of my battle buddies mentioned the Troops-To-Teacher Program, now Heroes-To-Teach. He encouraged me to apply. I applied and sure enough, I was hired. It was like heaven-sent," he recalled.

Even then, Jucutan admitted that he still had no idea what to do with his life or even what to major in. He wasn't sure if he really wanted to become a teacher and if teaching was the right job for him. That was until he saw his first-born and started to think about the future.

"From then on, I had to decide what I'd like to do: pursue a degree in education. There were times when I wanted to quit or take a break, but every time I looked at her, it pushed me to continue and to better my life, that way I can provide a better and comfortable life for my baby," he said.

In the military, Jucutan learned to focus on values, motivation, determination, and dedication. He used those skills, this time to pursue higher education. In May 2013, he finally obtained his college diploma and became a full-fledged teacher. He is now among the teaching staff at Hopwood Junior High School.

"Even though I was put down so many times when I was growing up, I used them as my motivation to keep going on. I was determined to better my life and my future, and I used my children as my drive to push and continue with my education, not only for myself but for them. I am dedicated to change and be the light to every child here in the CNMI," he said.

Rosa Camacho also moved the audience with her story. From being an undecided and easy-go-lucky teenager, Camacho shared how she was helped by the Heroes-to-Teachers program of PSS where she was allowed to continue her college education while working for the school system.

She is now a classroom teacher at Garapan Elementary School and recently acquired her master's degree at Framingham State University. While the Army really pushed her to be strong, it was the PSS Heroes-to-Teach program that made things happen for her and her family, she said.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan and BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero, who were among Friday's guests of honor, said that hearing these success stories only show that the program is working, in line with its mission to help returning service heroes by finding them jobs at PSS.

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Man in fake marriage case gets 24-month probation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mohammed Mohedul Islam, a Bangladeshi who has lived on Saipan for 20 years, was slapped with a 24-month probation sentence in federal court on Friday for lying to federal authorities as part of a marriage scam in order to obtain lawful permanent resident status.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered the 41-year-old Islam to be delivered to an immigration official for deportation.

Manglona required Islam to perform 50 hours of community service and pay a $100 special assessment fee, among other conditions.

The judge granted assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton's motion to dismiss the remaining five charges against Islam.

Naughton recommended a sentence of 24 months of probation, which is the low end of the sentencing guidelines.

Attorney Colin Thompson, court-appointed counsel for Islam, recommended the same, saying his client had accepted responsibility, has lived on the island for 20 years as a good citizen without any criminal activity.

Thompson said Islam will return to Bangladesh for medical reasons.

On Nov. 29, 2013, Islam pleaded guilty to a count of false statement to a U.S. government agency, which carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a $250,000 fine.

According to the plea agreement, on Aug. 10, 2009, Islam caused his then-spouse J.A.C. to state in her I-130 form "Japan Drive, Saipan, MP96950" as their last address when in fact they have never lived together and never lived in any house on Japan Drive.

Form I-130 refers to a U.S. citizen's petition for an alien relative.

Last year, federal agents arrested Islam after the U.S. government indicted him with one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States, three counts of false statement to a government agency, one count of concealment of material fact, and one count of false statement on an immigration document.

According to the indictment, Islam and others would persuade officials of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that defendant and J.A.C. were living together in a legitimate marriage when in fact they were not.

In November 2006, in preparation for his submission of immigration paperwork to USCIS and to make his marriage appear legitimate, Islam opened a joint bank account with J.A.C. at the Bank of Guam to generate evidence of joint ownership of property.

In April 2009, Islam signed a lease agreement for an apartment in Gualo Rai. The agreement named Islam and J.A.C. as tenants to generate evidence of a joint marital residence.

In August 2009, the two signed a rental agreement for a mailbox at Pacific Quick Print & Post.

In November 2009, Islam caused J.A.C.'s grandmother to sign an affidavit wherein the grandmother falsely attested that she had visited the two "at their home" and "had seen them to have a good relationship as husband and wife."

On Aug. 7, 2009, Islam lied in an I-485 form where he was required to list his "present husband/wife." The defendant listed only J.A.C., although at that time he was still married to a woman named Nasrin in Bangladesh.

Form I-485 is an application to register permanent residence or adjust status.

In the same form, Islam listed no children, although he has a daughter and a son in Bangladesh.

PSS, Barcinas settle guard's lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has dismissed a sexual harassment lawsuit filed by a security guard against Hopwood Junior High School principal Jonas Barcinas and the Public School System after the parties reached a confidential settlement agreement.

In an order on Thursday, Manglona vacated the jury trial set for June 16, 2014, and ordered that each party shall bear their own attorney's fees and expenses.

Manglona closed the case but retained jurisdiction to enforce the settlement agreement.

Plaintiff Homayan Kabir, through counsel Joseph Horey, and PSS and Barcinas through respective counsels Adam Hardwicke and assistant attorney general David Lochabay, filed Thursday a stipulation to dismiss the lawsuit.

The lawyers informed the court that the parties have entered into a confidential settlement agreement resolving all claims and disputes.

In November 2013, Manglona granted the CNMI government's motion to dismiss the assault and battery claim in Kabir's complaint.

The judge said the motion seeks dismissal because the Commonwealth has sovereign immunity against such claim. Kabir did not oppose the motion.

In the motion to dismiss, Lochabay, counsel for Barcinas, stated that the Commonwealth has been substituted as the defendant in Kabir's fourth claim, a state law claim of assault and battery.

Lochabay said as the Commonwealth is immune from suit for the assault and battery allegations contained in the fourth case of action in Kabir's complaint, the claim must be dismissed.

Horey did not oppose the motion.

In his complaint filed in 2007, Kabir alleges that Barcinas, who was then principal at Dandan Elementary School during his employment, sexually harassed him by making repeated advances on him. Kabir said he was employed as a security guard at the school from April to October 2005 and again from July to October 2006.

Barcinas has denied the allegations.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
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NOTICE OF APPLICATION
May 19, 2014

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Div of Land & Natural Resources	04/29/2014 TLRm-2014-X-021	CFAD Buoy	Tinian	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (05/01/2014)*
2. Hyatt Regency Hotel	04/21/2014 SMS-95-X-174 (Amend)	Driveway Widening	Garapan	Amendment	Approved (05/08/2014)*
3. First Impression	05/05/2014 SSm-2014-X-022	Photographic Activities	Shoreline Areas	Shoreline APC	Approved (05/06/2014)*
4. DCCA	05/07/2014 SSm-2014-X-023	Power Poles Installation	Shoreline Areas	Shoreline APC	Approved (05/09/2014)*
5. Pau Pau Tours	05/08/2014 SSm-2014-X-024	Photographic Activities	Shoreline Areas	Shoreline APC	Approved (05/09/2014)*
6. APEC	05/09/2014 SPIm-2014-X-025	Soil & Ground Testing	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (05/14/2014)*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

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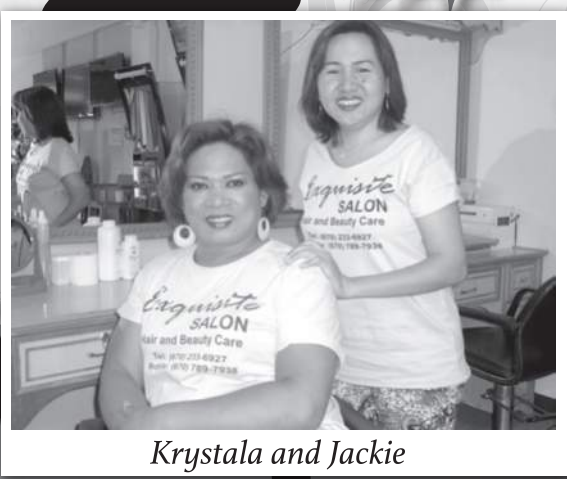
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You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **May 21**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

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TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm

Inos prepares $12M supplemental budget

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos is proposing a fiscal year 2014 supplemental budget of $12 million, much more than the initial projection of "$8 million to $9 million." While the supplemental budget has yet to reach the Legislature, he has already told lawmakers that additional projected revenue, on top of the fiscal year 2014 budget of $123.4 million, will fund only two items.

On Saturday, the governor said the supplemental budget could be transmitted to the Legislature this week. The submission has been delayed several times as the numbers and circumstances have been changing.

With the additional $12 million, the total projected resources available for appropriation in 2014 would be $135.4 million, more than the governor's proposed $134-million budget for 2015.

Of the total supplemental budget, $7 million will go toward the government health and life insurance premium.

The remaining $5 million will be added to the $20 million earlier set aside for the government's payment into the retirement settlement trust fund, to meet the $25 million minimum required payment for 2014.

"No room [for other things]. That's pushing the envelope, really," Inos said in an interview at a Department of Public Safety event on Thursday. On Saturday, he said the figure remains the same.

Some lawmakers and departments or agencies have been looking at other items that they want to be funded by the supplemental budget, including outstanding utility service payments to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The governor met with House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and Ways and Means Committee chair Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) on Wednesday afternoon to discuss the supplemental budget and other pressing matters.

"He wants to keep us abreast on the status of the supplemental budget," Deleon Guerrero said of that meeting. He said the additional projected revenues come from tax settlements that the government has entered into, including with Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and business tycoon William H. Millard, who owes the CNMI some $118 million in unpaid taxes.

The speaker said there is "some understanding" of a settlement in the Millard case. The CNMI government hired the New York-based law firm Kobre & Kim to go after Millard, once listed as among the richest people in America. He sold his interests in ComputerLand Corp. retail chain for over $200 million while he and his family were living on Saipan decades ago.

He said additional revenues related to the authorization of casino gaming on Saipan are also to be expected if and when the Lottery Commission grants a license to exclusively develop a minimum $2 billion casino resort on the island.

Sablan said they're awaiting the governor's actual submission of the $12 million supplemental budget, even as the House Ways and Means Committee continues its 2015 budget hearings.

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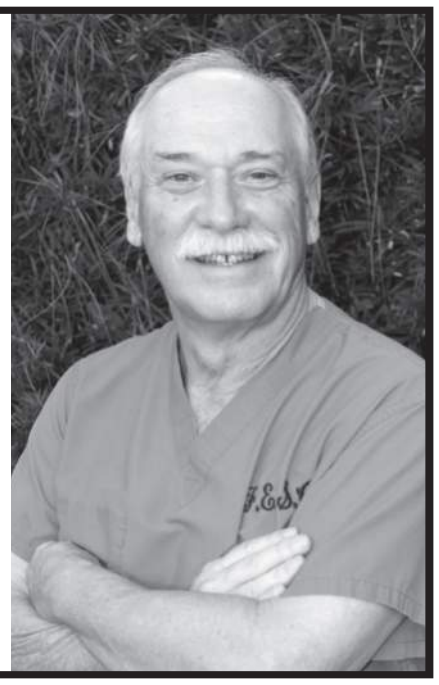

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INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW14-IFB-003

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofshchneider, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Cheribiyan Road, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after May 02, 2014 at Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollares ($250.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Service Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on May 21, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site, Road to Gillette Gymnasium, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 2:30 p.m. local time on May 23, 2014 to Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Technical Services Division, DPW Oleai Joeten Commercial Center or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW14-IFB-003". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 28, 2014. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 28, 2014, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 28, 2014, and must be received no later than June 04, 2014. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 9:30 a.m. local time, June 05, 2014, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 9:30 a.m. local time, on May 29, 2014.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the Northern Marianas Islands Code Section 70.30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, and
b) A Certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred and Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One hundred dollars ($100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
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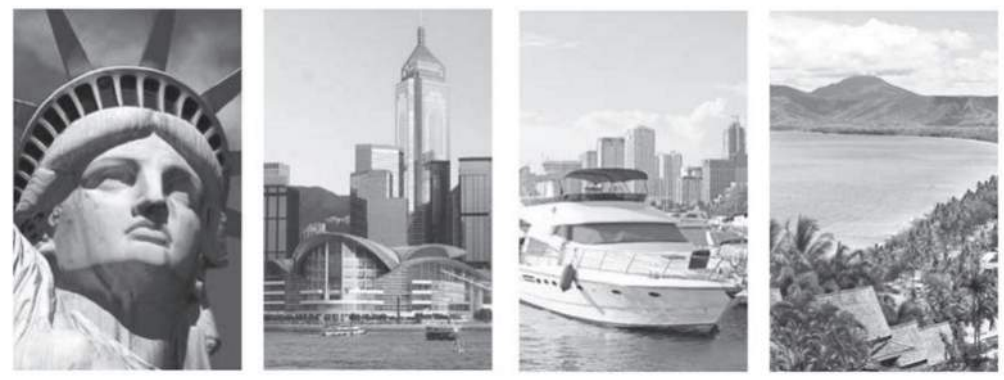

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A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS
CUC-RFSOQ-14-017

DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, SURVEYING, CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION, AND OTHER A&E PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR VARIOUS COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from qualified engineering consulting firms for the following purposes: Designing water and wastewater infrastructure including but not limited to water main, sewer main (gravity and pressure), lift stations, booster pumping stations, water storage reservoirs, treatment works, upgrades to existing facilities; providing construction management services including but not limited to submittal review, clarification and technical assistance related to contract plans and specifications, field engineering due to changes in conditions during construction, construction inspection, review of partial payment requests; surveying; and other related engineering services on various CUC Water and Wastewater Projects on the Islands of Saipan, Rota and Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFSOQ package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFSOQ package set. Prospective engineering consulting firms for this RFSOQ must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by May 30, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on May 21, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST), at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the SOQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFSOQ-14-017, Request for Statements of Qualifications"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 9, 2014**. Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All qualified engineering consulting firms are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the engineering consulting firm due to lack of information or understanding of the RFSOQ requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible/ qualified engineering consulting firms for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All qualified engineering consulting firms shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from the SOQ submitted by competing qualified engineering consulting firms.

This RFSOQ does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective respondents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 22, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, Chief Engineer, CUC Water/Wastewater Division via email address john.riegel@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all SOQ for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFSOQ, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All SOQ shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement &Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS
CUC-SOQ-14-013

DESIGN OF LOWER BASE SEWER SYSTEM

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from qualified architecture & engineering (A&E) firms to design the Lower Base Sewer System on the island of Saipan, which will replace the existing and dilapidated sewer system which dates back to the Naval administration of Saipan. The design will intercept the existing Capitol Hill sewer in the lower portion of Isa Drive, will service the main Lower Base industrial area, and will include a new lift station that will pump into the existing force main coming from Tanapag. This force main will be extended and enlarged from the point of connection to discharge to the existing S-3 lift station at the Saipan Seaport, enabling the abandonment of lift stations S-1, T-3, and the Tan Holdings lift station. Connection of all existing, active buildings within the area served by the design will also be included. A&E services will include the necessary geotechnical and surveying services to develop the design and construction documents. Work must be coordinated with the A&E firm selected by the CNMI Water Task Force (WTF) to design the Lower Base water system, which will be on-going at near the same time as this design contract. This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and all work is subject to EDA review and approval.

The RFSOQ package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFSOQ package set. Prospective A&E firms for this RFSOQ must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by May 30, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on May 22, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST), at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the SOQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC SOQ 14-013, Request for Statement of Qualifications-Design of Lower Base Sewer System" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 6, 2014. Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All A&E firm are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the A&E firm due to lack of information or understanding of the Request for Statement of Qualifications requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible/qualified A&E firms for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. A&E firms shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from the SOQ submitted by competing A&E firms.

This Request for Statements of Qualifications does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 27, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than May 29, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All SOQ shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement &Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Isabella, Jeremiah are most popular baby names in the NMI, Guam in 2013

Isabella and Jeremiah topped the list of the most popular baby names in Guam and the Northern Mariana Island in 2013, according to the Social Security Administration on Friday.

The top five boys names in 2013 in both territories were Jeremiah, Christopher, David, Ethan, and Jayden. The top five girls names for that year were Isabella, Victoria, Madison, Olivia, and Chloe.

Carolyn W. Colvin, acting commissioner of Social Security, announced last week that Noah and Sophia were the most popular baby names in the United States. How does Northern Mariana Island compare to the rest of the country?

ON THE NET
www.socialsecurity.gov

Check out Social Security's website, www.socialsecurity.gov, to see the top baby names for 2013.

The American Customer Satisfaction Index has ranked Social Security for top-rated e-government services for federal websites. Online services include *my Social Security*, a personalized online account that people can use beginning in their working years and continuing throughout the time they receive Social Security benefits.

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries can have instant access to their benefit verification letter, payment history, and earnings record by establishing a *my Social Security* account. Beneficiaries also can change their address and start or change direct deposit information online.

Individuals age 18 and older who are not receiving benefits can also sign up for a *my Social Security* account to get a personalized online *Social Security Statement*. The online *Statement* provides eligible workers with secure and convenient access to their Social Security earnings and benefit information, and estimates of future benefits they can use to plan for their retirement.

In addition to each state's top baby names, Social Security's website has a list of the 1,000 most popular boys' and girls' names for 2013 and offers lists of baby names for each year since 1880.

To read about this year's winner for the biggest jump in popularity and to see how pop culture affects baby names, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/pressoffice/pr/2014/babynames2013-pr.html. ***(SSA)***

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 19, 2006

MVA sets lofty goals for 2011
Five years from now, the CNMI shall have carved its own niche in international tourism as an authentic tropical paradise, a popular destination known for its natural beauty and clean environment, rich culture, and a vibrant community. That, at least, is the vision, based on the five-year strategic plan that the Marianas Visitors Authority presented during its general membership meeting yesterday at the Sand Castle Restaurant of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. This goal is paramount, especially with the Fitial administration's aim to attract 1 million tourists by 2008, MVA said.

Proposed PSS budget 'will create problems'
Contrary to earlier reports that the Public School System will be exempted from the budget reduction for fiscal year 2007, it now appears that at least $2.7 million will be lopped off from the PSS budget this next fiscal year. In a letter to the Legislature on May 4, Antonio Muna, the special assistant for management and budget, stated that the budget proposal for PSS in FY 2007 is $34.57 million—$2.64 million lower than the continuing resolution level of $37.21 million that the system has been getting the past five years. The Fitial administration has projected FY 2007 revenues to reach only $193 million.

May 19, 2007

New law puts brake on proportionate pensions
A bill blocking the NMI Retirement Fund from implementing a proportionate pension scheme is now law. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Thursday signed Senate Bill 15-82 into law, making it illegal for the Retirement Fund to pay less than the full pension to retirees. Now Public Law 15-59, the measure thwarts the Fund's plan to delay paying a portion of the retirees' pension until the government makes full contribution to the program. The Fund has announced a plan to begin applying the proportionate pension scheme on Oct. 1, 2007. Sen. Pete P. Reyes, himself a government retiree, authored the legislation.

Bartending champs return to the Taste
The Northern Marianas Bartenders Association, together with the Marianas Visitors Authority, will be bringing back the Taste of the Marianas Bartenders Competition champions on stage tonight. NMBA president Lito Espino said four champions from the previous Taste of the Marianas Bartenders Competition would be vying for the supreme title tonight at 7pm. The returning champs are: Saipan World Resort's Alvin Palma and Rogel Caruana, Aqua Resort Club's Jaymar Torres and Pacific Islands Club's Marvin Salamat. Espino said tonight's Battle of the Champions would be one of the highlights of the competition, aside from the regular Bartender's Competition.

May 19, 2008

CUC defends doubled power rates
The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has defended the recent doubling of power rates, saying it is actually charging less than what it should for fuel. CUC executive director Antonio S. Muna in a letter to lawmakers said that the current projected price of fuel is $3.69 per gallon. This is four cents higher than the figure used for calculating the electric fuel rate of 35.7 cents per kWh. The new rate schedule went into effect on May 3, 2008. Under the new scale, customers must pay a total of 37.3 cents per kWh for the first 500 kWh of usage. The rate increases with consumption. Prior to May 2008, customers paid 17.6 cents per kWh for the first 1,000 kWh.

NAP preparing for influx of new clients
The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs, which oversees the Nutrition Assistance Program office, says that the "CNMI needs to brace itself for an increase in demand in NAP's supplemental assistance." Acting secretary Melvin Faisao said that "DCCA has been projecting and planning to make certain that the program is organized and prepared for the landslide influx of new clients." He said the influx of new food stamp clients is a consequence of the economic woes that may contribute in an increase of as many as 40 or more households per month. NAP has over 7,000 active participants in the assistance program, which represents over 2,000 households per month, 25 percent of this number is composed ot the total indigenous population.

Teen Marianas bets take center stage in fashion show

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Candidates for Miss Teen Marianas 2014 gather for a group photo after their first fashion show Saturday at the Marianas Music Festival held at Naked Fish Cafe.

Candidates for Miss Teen Marianas 2014 sashayed down the runway for the first time last Saturday at the Marianas Music Festival held at Naked Fish where they were among the featured guests and entertainers.

Ten of the 16 candidates walked the ramp wearing outfits from Boarderline, The Athlete's Foot, and Teddies in the Sky.

"It's really a great turnout this evening. We really enjoyed the fashion show," said Stellar Marianas vice president Sonya Pangelinan-Dancoe.

Pangelinan-Dancoe expressed her gratitude to the sponsors who helped make the event possible. "We also thank the girls for their commitment and their time despite their busy schedules," she said.

She also heaped praise on the organizers. "It was very successful. We hope to have more of this event in the future."

Among the 16 candidates who participated in the fashion show were Nemerlyn Magat, Tiana Tudela Reyes, Aiko D. Erungel, Emmalou Cabrera, Chelsea Karen Fama, Lynnette Joyce Vasquez, Jacklyn Garote, Sheena Serrano, Michelle Faller, and Gianna Camacho.

The fashion show was one of the highlights of last Saturday's Marianas Music Festival that featured local musical talents. The festival is Marpac's initiative.

Stellar Marianas announced its return to the beauty pageant circuit last February after a long hiatus. A nonprofit pageant and talent group, Stellar Marianas took a break from organizing the Little Miss Marianas, Miss Marianas Teen, and Miss Marianas Universe pageants in 2008.

This year, Stellar Marianas is holding the coronation night for Miss Teen Marianas 2014 on July 12. This year's Miss Marianas Teen will represent the Northern Marianas in the Miss Teen International pageant.

Miss Marianas Teen 2014 will win a crown, trophy, sash and flowers, $1,000 cash, all-expense-paid travel opportunity to compete at Miss Teen International, all-expense-paid travel opportunities, a brand new smartphone, one-year supply of beauty products, one-year gym membership and personal trainer, one-year use of a personal stylist and manicurist, a professional model portfolio, a four-piece luggage set from Stellar Marianas, and an opportunity to create and implement a community project under her name assisted by Stellar Marianas.

Besides the Miss Teen Marianas, the nonprofit group is also set to re-launch the Miss Marianas Universe 2015 in January. It is also looking at bringing in the Miss Earth and Miss World titles to give more opportunities to CNMI women.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-14-015

UTILITY RATE & FINANCIAL CONSULTING SERVICES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to provide Utility Rate and Financial Consulting Services.

The requested Utility Rate and Financial Services will assist CUC in revising the charge schedules for electricity, water and wastewater by conducting the appropriate rate studies and developing the related cost of service models. In addition to these base rate activities, CUC will also require assistance with periodic reviews of its levelized energy adjustment clause (LEAC) rates, water electric charge (WEC) rates, and wastewater electric charge (WWEC) rates. During the two year term of this contract, CUC anticipates filing 3 base rate cases (one each year for electric, water and wastewater) and at least four periodic reviews of the LEAC, WEC, and WWEC. Preparation of testimony and appearance at public hearings will also be required. Ad hoc rate related studies may also be requested from time to time.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by May 16, 2014 to be considered.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on May 15, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST), at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 14-015, Utility Rate and Financial Consulting Services to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 4, 2014. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 16, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email address charles.warren@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply

IP&E
Fueling Excellence

Mariana Acquisition Corporation
IP&E Saipan

IP&E Saipan is accepting applications for the following position:

Tanker Driver

IP&E Saipan prides itself on dedication to quality, safety and customer service. As the Shell Licensee in the Micronesian region, IP&E Saipan is the local company with global reach.

The primary purpose of this Regular Full-Time position is to operate heavy goods vehicles to load, transport and deliver petroleum products safely and during the course of delivering products engage with customers to ensure delivery accuracy.

To qualify, you must:

- Have at least five years truck-driving experience
- Hold a 'C' Class Drivers Licence
- Be reliable, punctual and self-motivated
- Have a great attitude and strong work ethic
- Be capable and confident in your ability

IP&E Saipan offers an attractive compensation and benefits package to include, but not limited to:

Paid Annual & Sick Leave
Paid Holidays
401k Retirement Savings
Group Health Insurance
Group Life Insurance

Interested and qualified individuals may pick up applications at the IP&E Saipan, located at the Puerto Rico Terminal Office on Industrial Drive, and submit no later than May 22, 2014.

IP&E Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Act now to restore confidence in Veterans Affairs

The Department of Veterans Affairs' treatment of former service members remains a national disgrace and a betrayal of veterans, who deserve timely medical care.

VA Secretary Eric Shinseki was supposed to fix this. A Vietnam-era grunt who rose through the ranks to Army chief of staff, Shinseki supposedly understood the sacrifices and acute medical needs of former warriors. Yet, in a widening scandal, he's been horribly late to identify and correct management abuses that "cooked the books" at the expense of veterans.

The scandal surrounds so-called secret waiting lists used to disguise the fact that veterans weren't receiving medical aid within a required 14- to 30-day period. Veterans languished on the secret list for months and were transferred onto the official list only when the wait times would fall within the acceptable period. The trick gave the impression that the system operated smoothly; senior executives even received efficiency performance bonuses for this deadly charade.

As many as 40 veterans may have died while awaiting treatment in Phoenix, and similar scheduling schemes may have compromised VA care in more than 10 states. This isn't an isolated problem, the work of a few bad apples in Arizona; it's a clear pattern of misbehavior that exists only because VA leadership allows it to exist.

If Shinseki didn't know of this rampant misbehavior, he should have. Previous reports by the VA Inspector General's Office spotlighted unacceptable backlogs of disability claims and slow response times to mental health patients that mirror this scandal. Journalists also raised questions about VA scheduling problems months ago. Bipartisan House and Senate oversight committees have clamored for reform based on the earlier reports. Yet the VA seems incapable of doing anything about it.

Shinseki has improved actual VA health care during his tenure. But he now seems to be walking on thin ice with both hands over his eyes. To restore confidence, he must quickly and aggressively correct clear procedural failings and hold facility directors responsible for abuses. And he doesn't have to wait for the inspector general's report to make obvious management and culture reforms.

This country has a moral obligation to provide the best care possible to those who have put their lives and health on the line. If Shinseki doesn't deliver changes soon, perhaps someone else should take the helm.

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A blow not for privacy but for censoring history

Judges on Europe's highest court may have thought they were striking a blow for individual privacy when they ruled Tuesday that search engines could be ordered to stop linking to sensitive or older information about people online, even if it had been lawfully published. Instead, they were creating an entitlement to censor history, or at least to

See PRIVACY on Next Page

Godzilla 2014

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

In Majuro, Marshall Islands in the early '80s, I witnessed a delayed radiation effect. An under-40 male was walking down the street when he collapsed and the island hospital pronounced him DOA. The diagnosis was death by radiation where the story told me was that he ate a fish carrying a dormant rogue atom that became active inside his body. The wild cavorting of radiated neutrons acted like a beam that went slashing the poor man's innards like a laser causing terminal damage.

I am no scientist. I had difficulty understanding, let alone accepting the explanation, but there was no debate on what killed the man. It came as an effect from one of the nuclear bomb tests almost 30 years before in the Bikini Atoll north of Majuro, delivered by a fish!

This week, a 2014 version of Godzilla debuts in American cinemas. There are 28 films in the franchise that began in 1954 when the movie *Godzilla* was first released. Considered a filmographic metaphor for the United States that heartlessly delivered the A-bomb to hapless civilians in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it was also an allegory of nuclear weapons to Japan's memory 60 years ago of the effect of a Bikini test on its fishermen fishing in the Marshalls. The winds rained atomic fallout on their boat, scalding skin and shortening everyone's breath, to put it mildly.

The early Godzilla (*Gojira* in Nihonggo) films portrayed its character as a frightening, nuclear monster. Japanese *Gojira* is actually a portmanteau of the word for gorilla *(gorira)* and a whale *(kujira)*. Godzilla was described as a cross between a gorilla and a whale, a prehistoric sea monster awakened by nuclear fusion. The word G-O-D on the first syllable of the English translation alludes to power, infinite and almighty! Save the first Godzilla was not of Mother Nature but straight out of human invention, depravity's *force majeure!*

We are the only nation that had used atomic power on people. And with Russia, we hold the capability to destroy life on Planet Earth seven times over, as if it makes a difference after the first!

If Godzilla is an allusion and a metaphor, ours in 2014 comes as climate change. Florida Sen. Rubio just came out recently claiming that humans do not contribute to climate change. This was just a week after the U.S. Congress itself issued an 800-page report on climate change and how our hydrocarbon emissions have contributed to its happenstance. This reminds me of the tobacco industry when I lived in Virginia and North Carolina, saying that there is no causality connecting tobacco smoking and lung cancer!

One only has to take a sweeping look at the hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, droughts, and floods occurring with greater strength in unlikely places to realize that something dramatic has changed and with the amount of hydrocarbons we have emitted into the atmosphere, existentially at least, we know in our bones that we did something amiss to the environment.

Of course, our capacity for denial knows no end. Why, when two regions of Ukraine held a referendum, Kiev not only ignored it; it claimed that the region was not holding one, and if they did, they will just declare it "illegal," in the same way Crimea rejoining Russia is also "illegal." Duh!

We continue to rely on fossil fuel for energy when the alternative (e.g., liquid hydrogen) is not only possible but cheaper. The cost we are paying for an economy based on oil, natural gas, coal, and now, tar sands and other bituminous ingredients is wasteful. Just look at all the war zones and why they are that way. East Timor uses the U.S. dollar for its currency, for heaven's sake! "In defense of freedom" was that war fought? Nope! Natural gas, Matilda. Likewise, in Syria, Sudan, Iraq, Iran, the Stans, Nigeria, Libya, Egypt, China's continental shelf and the islands of South China Sea (the 2012 Penguin World Map labels the Luzon Sea!), etc., are literally fossil fuel aflame, polluting the air, but we continue because it benefits the powerful few!

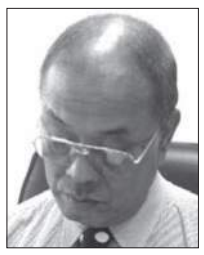
If Mark Rubio can honestly deny human contribution to climate change, why can't we deny the reality of anything we do not approve of? Some "truthers" are now claiming that the Sandy Hook shooting was contrived, and yes, made up in a TV studio as a tactic to take away the constitutional right to bear arms. Right.

Let the human touch click on almighty power, in the way China committed its rapid rail technology to the Nairobi-Mombasa line in Kenya, and possibly, a pan-African rail system. Doable. Why, someone is actually figuring the practics of connecting Shanghai to L.A. through Russia's Far East, tunneling under the Bering Strait into Alaska, to BC-Canada and down the west coast to CA. And why not a Hong Kong to Paris silk rail? Not a flight of fancy. It's grounded. Montreal-to-Rio via Mexico and Santiago? Check. Better and cheaper than MH370s! The technology is in place to make this visioning feasible, a Godzilla of a different pedigree.

Time to make human technology user-friendly, I say, even as I am sure to die of asthma in Dong Bei's coal-loaded air!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A troubled paradise



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

A very thoughtful letter from medical student Faye Yu presented a glimpse of healthcare in the CNMI. It was especially moving, her poignant explanation of her dad's fate forced by a difficult family financial situation. She also recommended that we proactively embrace health issues.

Ms. Yu discussed what she had to face upon discovery of her dad's illness. It's a case that truly depicts what a lot of families here face today when Obamacare slammed what's left of the family purse when the 40 percent increase in health premium came into effect. It's especially hard for retirees whose pay were cut illegally by 25 percent and the 52 percent underemployed. Many have opted out of their plans.

Many may qualify for Medicaid. But such a move would fast track depletion of funds. When it's gone it turns into an obligation of the local government. And we can't even pay retirees or provide basic budgetary appropriation to defray CHC's operations. So you could see what Ms. Yu has highlighted and it doesn't look encouraging either for many of our people stampeded by the high cost of Obamacare. Esteemed Delegate Kilili is woefully mute on this issue. Any explanation?

On top of this, the local hospital only provides ambulatory medical services. We can't afford a modern and sophisticated backup system that equals hospitals like the Mayo Clinic in New York or UCLA Medical Center in L.A. It would need millions upon millions of dollars to attain such level of medical services. This government is broke and such backup system is but a pipe dream!

The phrase "backup system" needs to be understood. For instance, when you're going to an off-island medical center, it's your responsibility to know the strength or Achilles heel (weakness) of a hospital. Let's say you need open heart surgery (not bypass). Which hospital is reputable on this type of procedure, Straub in Honolulu or UCLA Medical Center in L.A.? Next, do you have the money to go to the hospital of your choice?

Definitely, CHC's medical staff and nurses deserve the community's accolades for doing their best under an environment persistently ignored by incompetence hailing from upstairs. I mean we've got people donning the hat of policymakers whose role is relegated to broken lawnmowers at a landfill. In brief, ignorance translates into hardship for people in the villages.

On medical referral, we engage in a waiting game, e.g., who among critically ill patients are referred to off-island medical centers when money is available. It may be obscene but that is the factual reality of the persistent fiscal and financial crisis of this government that adversely affects critical cases. So you see, it isn't a problem for retirees only, right? You have to admit that the indigenous people are woefully sick and many have contracted disabling and debilitating long-term illnesses.

As the health of our people deteriorate, politicians have gone on nonsensical junkets, eating sandwiches in New Zealand after attending a gay marriage ceremony. Or simply turn their heads the other way rather than do due diligence to figure out the growing beast or impending implosion. Has the term leadership been redefined to mean mediocrity, negligence, and arrogance basking in the swamp of ignorance?

As this troubled paradise rides with the tide of apathy and indifference from upstairs, perhaps it's equally fitting that we swallow the bitter pill of unsolicited hardship in hopes of fending for ourselves through divine providence. The fault lines, cracks, and depth of hardship have widened, placing the innocent in such virulent sea of adversity. It's now a journey of humor hoping to crash land in the forest of sanity. Indeed, paradise is in trouble!

Line, hook and sinker

It's hard understanding the obvious misguided agenda of self-destruction concocted by politicians who have begun morphing into political dinosaurs. There's the royal introduction of casino and organized crime, marijuana topped by bankruptcy on every corner.

Perhaps the pressure of the 25-percent cut in pension pay must have reached pitch peak level as to force a tunnel vision: Every penny raked in must now go to retirees! What about the welfare of the majority who aren't a part of the Fund?

Why treat retirees with false royalty at the expense of the rest? In other words, what happens to the thousands of students, patients who flock to CHC, employees who no longer could look forward to retirement, and stagnant wages and salaries for more than a decade while the cost of living skyrockets?

Do we trash the livelihood of the majority out of ghostly fear of losing the vote of retirees? Why succumb to nonsensical politics over doing what's right for the rest of the NMI populace? Eh, braddah, you must have been looking down so long you thought it was up, eh?

■■■

Among policymakers, there's the obvious and vicious disconnect with issues of substance. Is this rooted in language barrier, education, reading comprehension, IQ, or just what is it? Where could we assist you so you would come to understand your fiduciary duties? When can you master the basics in the dynamics of the democratic process?

■■■

Is the fault line of disconnection embedded in what's known as linear thinking, e.g., reading ABCD placed above the green board? Does it mean analytical thinking is difficult for most policymakers?

You see if you pile up the alphabet on the table, identifying letters becomes problematic. Line them up and recitation turns easy. Do you get my rift on "linear" vs. "analytical" thinking? Hurl peripheral questions on this score to explore their intellectual acuity. Let's share what you've found out, even if it's embarrassing!

PRIVACY

From Page 10

make parts of the public record harder to find.

The case began when a Spanish lawyer, Mario Costeja Gonzalez, did a Google search on his own name and found links to embarrassing legal notices that a Barcelona newspaper had published in 1998 announcing a real estate auction to pay his social security debts. After Spain's data protection agency ruled that the newspaper could leave the pages online but Google couldn't link to them, Google appealed to the European Court of Justice. Its ruling, which is not subject to appeal, held that individual privacy rights "override, as a general rule," the public's interest in data, particularly if the presentation is "inadequate, irrelevant or no longer relevant, or excessive." It doesn't matter where the search engine does its data-crunching so long as it has an "establishment" within the European Union. As a result, the ruling sets the stage for people to conceal legally published information from the entire world.

The Internet certainly has changed the privacy equation in many ways, both good and bad. Many formerly obscure pieces of personal information collected by public agencies are now easy to find online, even by people who aren't searching specifically for them. Utterances and images never fade once they are uploaded. And search engines present personal information in a different, potentially misleading context, ranking tidbits of data according to secret algorithms.

But one of the many flaws in the ruling is that it unfairly focuses on Google and other search engines, which aren't the real problem here. They're not repositories for the data that people might want to remove; they are just remarkably efficient tools for finding things online. And whether a piece of information is relevant or valuable is in the eyes of the beholder. One of the beauties of the Internet, after all, is the extent to which it gives anyone with a browser access to troves of knowledge that had previously been locked in government offices, publishers' morgues and other storage vaults of the analog era.

It's one thing to make sure people can protect their privacy by forcing sites to remove sensitive personal information, or to provide Internet users a way to erase material they themselves have posted. And policymakers can debate whether information collected by the government should have an online expiration date. But the Court of Justice's ruling would create an overly broad right for individuals to airbrush the historical record, and that just invites abuse by people who have something to hide.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Do not extend December deadline for CW program'

Dear U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez: The Northern Marianas Descent Corp. is a chartered non-profit public corporation comprised of U.S. citizens, a majority of whom are indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people. On April 22, 2014, the NMDC mandated me as president of the corporation to write on behalf of the membership to respectfully request that the extension for the foreign workers residing in the CNMI for another five years not to be granted, except for persons in critically needed positions.

We find it very disturbing that our current Delegate to the U.S Congress, the Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, while arguing that the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island needs the 14,000-plus foreign workers in the CNMI beyond December 2014, is simultaneously and diligently supporting other legislative measures, such as S.744 Section 2109 and H.R. 15, which if passed, would grant a pathway to permanent residency and eventually U.S. citizenship to these foreign workers. It is important to point out that the CNMI government, the private sector, and the non-profit organizations have already instituted measures to accelerate the training and development of local U.S. citizens workforce and job placement efforts. There is no compelling reason to grant a five-year extension to all classes of jobs presently occupied by foreign workers. There are many job classes presently held by foreign workers that do not require five years of training: only two days for gas attendant; four days for cashier; one week for bank teller; two days for a bellhop; four days for a waiter/waitress; two weeks for bartender; one week for construction helper; two months for account clerk; one month for bus driver; eight months for mason, rough carpenter, plumber; one year for electrical technician; two years for heavy equipment mechanic; and the list goes on. Furthermore, critical positions in healthcare such as nurses, doctors and physician assistant, including other technical (e.g., engineers) and hard-to-fill positions do not require more than three years to be replaced by U.S citizens.

According to the 2010 Census, over 14,000 foreign workers controlled 58 percent of the job market in the CNMI, while U.S. citizen unemployment rate was 11 percent. The foreign worker population has already outnumbered the U.S. citizens' voting population, and this will certainly marginalize and displace the local U.S. citizens in their homeland.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan has a two-pronged approach to ensure the granting of permanent residency and U.S citizenship to over 14,000 foreign workers. First, he has supported/authored several legislative measures recently to ensure that the extension for foreign workers' presence in the CNMI beyond December 2014 comes to fruition. Second, Delegate Sablan is simultaneously making every attempt to include the CNMI foreign workers in the U.S. immigration reform efforts. He introduced his own bill to grant a pathway to permanent residency and U.S. citizenship to all foreign workers in the CNMI, he included Section 2109 in S.744, and he co-sponsored H.R. 15.

On Sept. 12, 2013, CNMI legislator Felicidad T. Ogumoro and 10 co-sponsors (out of the 20-member House of Representatives) introduced CNMI House Resolution 18-34, respectfully requesting the 113th U.S. Congress to eliminate Section 2109 of S.744, which will allow thousands of foreign workers, their families, and persons of other ethnic and foreign political status who are in the CNMI to become U.S. permanent residents and subsequently U.S. citizens. The resolution, adopted on Nov. 15, 2013, indicated a consensus amongst the sponsors that S.744 Section 2109 violates the spirit and sanctity of the Covenant Agreement with the United States establishing the political union between the U.S. and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island.

Again, the Northern Marianas Descent Corp., which advocates for and promotes the development of the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinians in the CNMI, is strongly opposed to the extension of the December 2014 deadline, and respectfully ask that, with the exception of critical and hard-to-find jobs, this extension not be approved.

Herman R. Deleon Guerrero
President, Northern Marians Decent Corp.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°

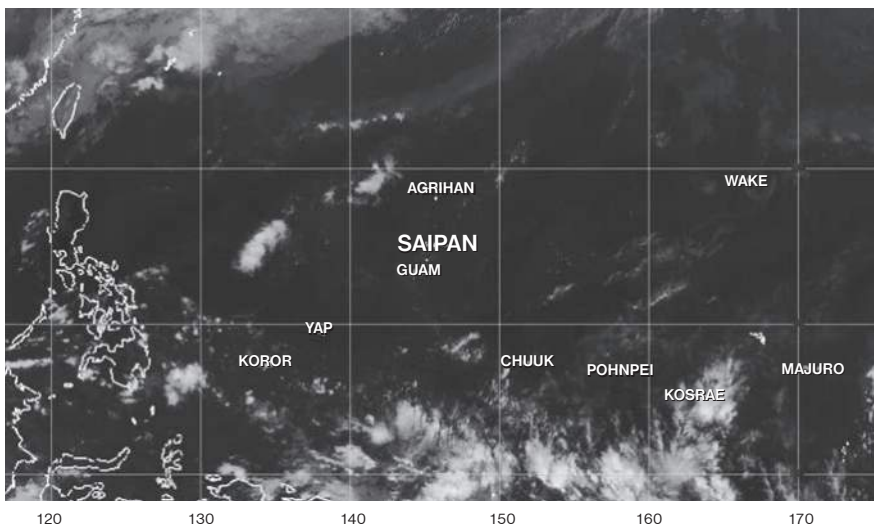
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼54
Beijing	Sunny	▲90	▼61
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼77
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼73
London	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼58
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲74	▼56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲96	▼81
Melbourne	Rain	▲62	▼46
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼74
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼53
Osaka	Showers	▲75	▼62
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼58
Pusan	Showers	▲66	▼59
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼58
Salem	Showers	▲69	▼46
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼55
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼63
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼52

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A frontal boundary curves southwestward from 25N149E to 22N140E to beyond 25N at 132E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near Iwo To Island and northwest of Minami Tori Shima along and up to 120 miles northwest of this feature. A surface trough extends northeastward from 14N133E to 24N136E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring north of Palau within 60 miles of the trough axis south of 17N. A near-equatorial trough runs east-southeastward from 6N130E to end at EQ160E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located well south of Yap Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae south of a line from 2N138E to 2N165E. Scattered trade-wind showers are found across portions of Pohnpei and Kosrae states within 170 miles of a line from 9N156E to 4N165E and east of Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 3N175E to 7N175E. A shear line extends eastward from northeast of Wake Island at 21N169E to beyond the date line at 21N. Scattered showers are found along and up to 150 miles north of this boundary.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:33 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
6:16 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
10:58 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:21 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:57 PM	9:51 AM
Tuesday	11:48 PM	10:51 AM
Wednesday		11:50 AM
Thursday	12:36 PM	12:47 PM
Friday	1:22 AM	1:43 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9: 25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11: 05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	4 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	6 via GUM
D28009	12:50pm	4:05pm	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	6:50pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5038	9:55am	7:15pm	6 via Rota-Guam
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via Guam
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA184/5038	10:25pm	7:15am+1	1 via Rota-Guam
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/5038	11:30pm	7:15am+1	5 via Rota-Guam

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

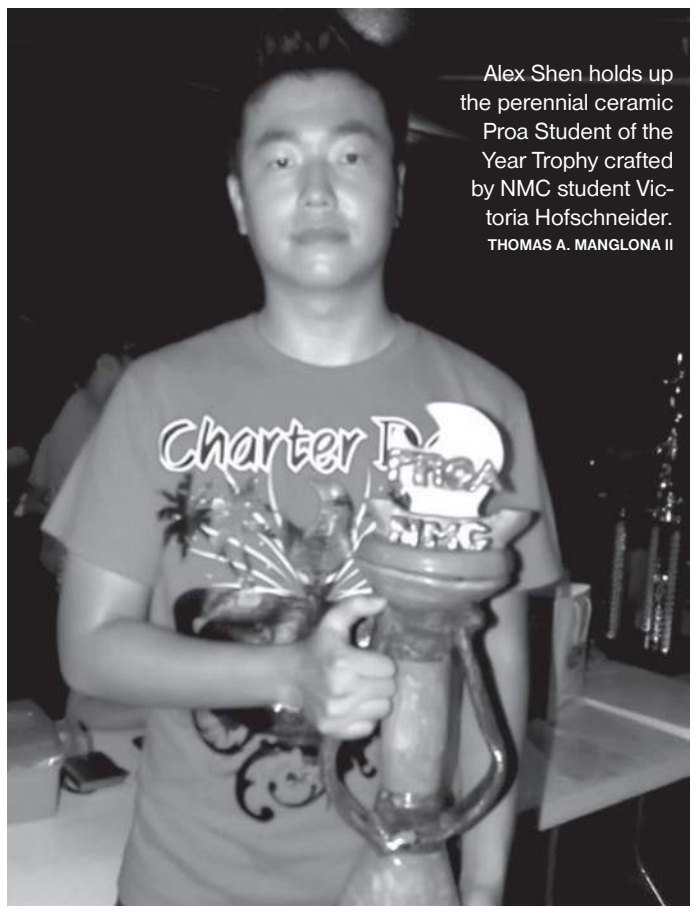
OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Alex Shen is NMC's Student of the Year

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT


Alex Shen holds up the perennial ceramic Proa Student of the Year Trophy crafted by NMC student Victoria Hofschneider.
THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Alex Shen was named the 2014 Proa Student of the Year last Friday night at the Northern Marianas College's 33rd Charter Day celebration. Shen was born in China and moved to the islands 13 years ago.

"I am very humbled to receive this award," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "I feel like I have just done my duties as a student and an individual. I try to do my best and receiving this award means a lot."

Shen, a Saipan Southern High School alumnus, will be graduating this semester with a degree in liberal arts. He will be studying economics at the University of Michigan later this year and plans to return to Saipan and fulfill his dreams of becoming an entrepreneur.

According to Frankie Eliptico, Northern Marianas College External Relations director, the award is given annually to a student who exemplifies the values and characteristics that the institution holds to the highest standards. Students at the college nominate individuals to be considered for the award by a special committee made up of NMC officials.

"Alex is a part of many organizations and does not need to be told what to do or wait for instructions. He is a very proactive person. He is just a go-getter and we are proud of him and his family for getting to where he is at now," Eliptico said.

Shen serves as the president of student government at the college, is a member of the National Honor Society for two-year colleges, Phi Theta Kappa, and founded a new speech club on campus.

The 24-year-old student also works under the International Student Services office at the college.

Shen now holds the perennial ceramic Proa Student of the Year Trophy crafted by NMC student Victoria Hofschneider.

He encouraged graduating high school students to "start smart" at NMC.

"I was not educated when I first came to Saipan but the college and high school really made me who I am today. NMC has a lot of opportunities and it gives you the rare chance to explore different avenues and get a taste of what you really want," he said.

He credits his success to Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero and the island of Saipan.

"If it weren't for Mr. Guerrero, my mentor, I would be lost. Fifty percent of who I am really is because of him. Whenever I have problems I go to him and he gives me advice," he added.

Shen also expressed gratitude to Student Services dean Leo Pangelinan, NMC staff, and other college students who have supported him in his educational endeavors.

"It was great serving this island and community and I hope to continue to do more good," he said. "After achieving success in my career I can assure everyone that I will be back. Saipan is my home and it has been a life-changing experience."

Shen is the son of Yuji Jin.

JAYSON CAMACHO
Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho, and Division of Agriculture Manuel Tenorio, front row, second from left, pose with farmers and community remembers marking May as Agricultural Month and the 31st Agricultural Fair.

May is CNMI Agricultural Month

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A proclamation calling for stronger commitment to support farmers in the CNMI was signed by Gov. Eloy S. Inos before farmers, vendors, farmers, and agriculture advocates on Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.

Inos also proclaimed May 24, 2014, as Saipan Agricultural Fair Day.

"We urge all CNMI residents to support the efforts of farmers and ranchers in promoting our traditional and cultural agricultural practices throughout the year," he said.

To achieve a better understanding of and appreciation for agriculture's role on the islands, he urged everyone present at the signing to purchase locally grown produce and livestock.

Inos told *Saipan Tribune* that he supports local farmers and visits the Sabalu Market in Susupe every Saturday.

"I grew up in a farm and I love farming. It's a very rewarding experience and when you plant something from the ground up and you see it bear fruit, it becomes a very rewarding experience," Inos said. "You could you use it for your own or sell it."

Manuel A. Tenorio, director of the Division of Agriculture of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, said the proclamation also seeks to recognize the hard work of farmers.

"Farmers are growing things and raising livestock and recognizing their hard work is part of this month's celebration," said Tenorio.

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho said the weeklong celebration leads up to the Agricultural Fair.

"This is going to be the 31st anniversary and this will continue to help and promote healthy living. We need to expand this and that we don't continue to rely on importation and rely on our resources," Camacho said.

The monthlong celebration also supports local farms, helps keep these farms in the community, and ensures that the next generation has access to "nourishing, flavorful, and abundant food."

The theme for this year's agricultural month is "Support Our Farmers/*'Tepengi School Leemaat/ Supotta I Lancheruta Siha*."

"Let us be that community that is keeping local businesses thriving by doing business locally," Camacho said.

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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, **Plaintiff,** **vs.** **VICENTE P. CASTRO and DOLORES C. PANGELINAN, and PREPEDIGNA KILELEMAN, BERNARD KILELEMAN, and TYRONE KILELEMAN Successors in Interest Defendants.**	**Civil Action No. 11-0104** **NOTICE OF HEARING ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on June 17, 2014 at 1:30 p.m., a hearing will be held before Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment in the abovecaptioned matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, *Guma Hustisia*, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Respectfully submitted this 30th day of April, 2014.

/s/
CLERK OF COURT

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff, **-v-** **The Estate of EFRAIN CEPEDA TUDELA, Deceased; ANTONIA MANIBUSAN TUDELA, MICHAEL N. TAKAI; and EVELYN M. TAKAI, Defendants.**	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0135**

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 28, 2014, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Tract 22542-2 (part of Tract 22542(Rem) which was part of original Tract 22542, A.H. 174), situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 2,083 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 2018/79, the original of which was registered May 3, 1979, as Document no. 8191, at the Land Registry, Saipan; and

Lot 059 H 01, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 9,179 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 059H00, dated April 9, 1996, the original of which was recorded on April 11, 1996, as Document no. 96-0877, at the Office of the Commonwealth Recorder, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, June 6, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 30th day of April, 2014:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
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SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of **JOANNE DELA CRUZ SAVEA, Deceased.**	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 14-0094**

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation has filed a Petition of Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Joan Dela Cruz Savea, Deceased; that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on June 17, 2014 at the hour of 1:30 p.m.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Joanne Dela Cruz Savea, Deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the date of the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Post Office Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: May 08, 2014

/s/ Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Augustin Tudela Castro, Petitioner, vs. Xuhong Xu Castro, Respondent,	) FCD-DI) CIVIL ACTION) NO. 14-0145) **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 502680 Saipan MP, 96950 as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

DATED, this 3rd day of April, 2014:

/s/Clerk of Court

Student-led Charter Day fest a resounding success

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

The Northern Marianas College commemorated its founding with food, music, and entertainment last Friday at its 33rd annual Charter Day. Hundreds of community members, college officials, and students crowded the college's South Field in As Terlaje.

The night's theme was "Full Speed Ahead," referring to the college's recent reaffirmed accreditation and its desire to keep its momentum and dedication.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart welcomed everybody to the celebration and expressed her gratitude for their continued support for the college.

This was also the first student-led Charter Day festivity. Event chairperson and NMC sophomore Ervin Cruz told *Saipan Tribune* that preparations were underway since March.

NMC has been "through a long road since its establishment," Cruz said. "Without NMC there would be no college on Island."

External Relations director Frankie Eliptico said that NMC has been playing a central role in training and educating many island residents.

"Many of our students have gone on to other schools and became great leaders. We are very proud of our alumni. Tonight we celebrate the college's role in the development of individuals and the leaders of our islands. We want to be here 33 plus more years in doing that," he said.

As a part of NMC's movement to promote healthy living, sugary drinks were not sold at the event. "We are stepping up our commitment to living healthy," said Eliptico.

The festivity, which was streamed live online, featured a long line of performances, booths, and competitions. Sports competitions, the Marianas Idol signing competition, the highly anticipated Battle of the Bands, Miss Charter Day Pageant Show, and several other activities took place Friday night.

NMC student Charnessa Lizama said the CNMI's sole community college has helped her widen her horizons. "The instructors here are helpful and now we are more involved in a lot of activities. NMC has furthered my education," she said. Lizama encouraged graduating high school students to start at NMC because of its affordability and proximity to home.

Fellow student Tomas Atalig II expressed similar sentiments. "It was a fun learning experience. I am now learning more difficult concepts about stuff and I get to meet a lot of nice people. It is a smart place to start."

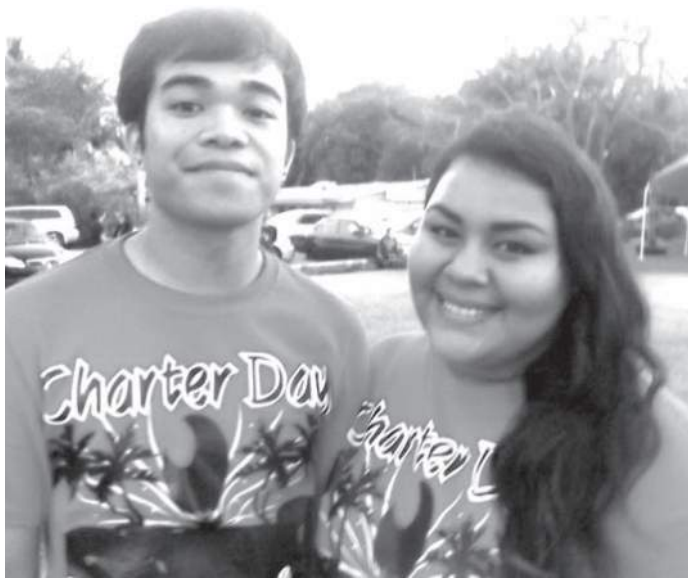
Cassy Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* that her time at NMC was a "hard [but] enjoyable experience." "NMC was where I not only gained my educational experience but I have gained so many new friendships and discovered things about myself. The people have helped me find myself. People should not underestimate NMC, they will push you."

Sponsors of NMC's Charter Day include IT&E, NMC Cooperative Research and Education Service program, Docomo, *Saipan Tribune*, Pacifica Insurance, the Pacific Islands Club, DFS Galleria, Delta Air Lines, and Mobile Marianas Inc.

PHOTOS BY THOMAS A. MANGLONA II
Members of the music band "Flow" pose for a photo after competing in the highly anticipated Battle of the Bands competition.

Mount Carmel Students enjoy last Friday night's NMC Charter Day festivities.

Hundreds of community members, college officials, and students crowd NMC's South Field at last Friday's festivities.



Event chair Ervin Cruz and co-chair Cassy Deleon Guerrero.

Roman Reyes, right, and Zack Sasamoto pose next to their cars at the 10th annual Truck and Car Show as a part of NMC's 33rd Charter Day celebrations.

A participant in the Charter Day's Marianas Idol singing competition performs Beyonce's Listen.

Northern Marianas College alumni and current students perform a special dance number at last week's celebration.

DPS Boating Safety promotes life jacket awareness

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety, in conjunction with Canadian Safe Boating Council, hosted the Life Jacket World Record Day last weekend at the Civic Center in Susupe.

Boating Safety is promoting the use of life jackets as part of its "Wear It! Campaign" on boating safety.

DPS Boating Safety education officer Jeff Sato said the event was held to encourage all boaters and beachgoers to wear lifejackets all the time because accidents happen in the water.

"We want them to wear it at all times when on a boat. If you're injured, you don't float, you sink, so were trying to promote the awareness of using life jackets," Sato said.

Vouchers were handed out at the event to help people obtain lifejackets.

Later in the afternoon, everybody put on life jackets as part of a national effort to beat the world record for the most number of people wearing lifejackets. A picture of everybody with their life jackets will later be sent to national organizers of the "Ready, Set, Wear It" campaign.

According to Sato, last year's world record was 5,774 participants and he said it is kind of impossible to set that record here on the CNMI but his main concern is to raise awareness of the importance of always using a life jacket.

Last year's "Wear It"' campaign had 5,774 participants, 1,282 inflatable jackets, 4,492 inherently buoyant life jackets, 57 dogs in life jackets, and a total of 189 events held worldwide in celebration of Life Jacket World Record Day.

Saturday's event was part of National Safe Boating Week that started on May 17 and will end on May 23.

Besides promoting awareness about life jacket use, the event also featured static displays of big boats, jet skis, fire and rescue trucks, and different types of life jackets (offshore life jackets, near-shore buoyant vest, flotation aid, throwable devices, special use jackets, and inflatable and hybrid jackets).

Offshore jackets are used in open, rough, or remote waters where rescue may be slow in coming, while near-shore buoyant vests are used on calm waters, inland waters, or fast rescue areas because it is not designed to withstand long hours in rough waters.

Flotation aids and throwable devices are also good only for calm and inland waters where help is nearby, but throwable devices are also used in areas with heavy boat traffic.

Special-use jackets are designed for water activities such as rafting, working on vessels, and sail boarding. Inflatable and hybrid jackets are only required for use during special activities or with legal requirements.

JAYSON CAMACHO
Different life vests and buoys are displayed during Life Jacket World Record Day on Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.

JAYSON CAMACHO
A little girl with her life jacket stays near the shore, playing around the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Section boat.

JAYSON CAMACHO
A DPS vehicle promotes life jacket use in the CNMI as part of the National "Wear It! Campaign"

JAYSON CAMACHO
Community members stop by the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Division of Fish and Wildlife booth to check out brown tree snakes and the danger they pose to the CNMI.

JAYSON CAMACHO
Two employees of the Commonwealth Port Authority sit at their concession booth while promoting life jacket use in the CNMI.

JAYSON CAMACHO
Boating Safety's education officer Jeff Sato, far right, is joined by other DPS and Boating Safety employees at their booth during the event.

JAYSON CAMACHO
A family attending the life jacket event poses in front of the jet skis and boat displayed by DPS.

Taste of the Marianas Week 2 is twice the fun

The 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden continued on May 10, bringing some of the best of island cuisine and entertainment to American Memorial Park.

The event is held every Saturday evening beginning at 6pm in May as part of the monthlong celebration of Tourism Month in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Revelers joined two heats of the Pie-eating Competition, stuffing their faces with custard pie donated by Herman's Modern Bakery. The first heat was won by John Umbay. Competing television celebrity Jing Lun Wong of Taiwan gave his best effort for the camera, but failed to place. In the second heat, the lone female place winner KayKay Reyes came in second.

The Marianas Visitors Authority, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the National Park Service jointly hosted the annual event.

Taste of the Marianas offers international cuisine at affordable prices by 16 hotels and restaurant vendors, non-stop live entertainment on the main stage, nightly contests on the secondary stage, and arts and crafts sales. ***(MVA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sierra's Pearl Shakes serves up treats on opening night of the 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 10, 2014.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Poon's Restaurant staff attends to customers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pua Hinano perform a Polynesian dance at the 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 3, 2014.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hyatt Regency Saipan serves up haut cuisine for guests at the 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Southern Warriors perform a Carolinian dance at the 16th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 10, 2014.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jing Lun Wong of Taiwan's Star TV gives his best effort for the camera during the Pie-eating Competition at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden on May10, 2014, downing three hotdogs first. At right is Armen Karapetyan, who placed 2nd in the 1st Heat competition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Winners of two heats of the Pie Eating Competition take a commemorative photo during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 10, 2014. From left are Jayson Camacho (3rd place, 2nd Heat), Jun Kiyagawa (3rd place, 1st Heat), John Umbay (1st place, 1st Heat), Simon Jed Necesito (1st place, 2nd Heat), KayKay Reyes (2nd place, 2nd Heat), and Armen Karapetyan (2nd place, 1st Heat).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Southern High School Chamorritas perform at the 16th-AnnualTaste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 10, 2014.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tony Roma's/Capricciosa's booth is always popular with guests.

Guam man get 18 months for making bomb threats

Michael San Nicolas Santos, 54, was sentenced Friday in the District Court of Guam to 18 months in federal prison followed by three years of supervised release for transmitting bomb threats in interstate commerce.

Santos was also ordered to pay a $100 special assessment fee and total restitution of $2,389.48 for distribution in part to Pho Saigon Restaurant, the Judiciary of Guam, and the Guam Police Department.

Santos pleaded guilty on Nov. 14, 2013, to the offense of maliciously conveying false information by telephone.

On the mornings of Sept. 26, 2013, Oct. 10, 2013, and Oct. 29, 2013, Santos called the Guam Emergency 911 Center and stated to the effect that there was a bomb going to explode in the Dededo Mall. On the last phone call, Santos threatened and stated, "There is a bomb going down in Dededo Mall right now. It is going to be going off. Get those people out of the building. In Dededo Mall right now."

On the morning of each of the calls, Santos purchased a new prepaid cellular phone and/or SIM card in the Mobil gas stations in Ysengsong Road, Dededo, and Route 16. He made the Sept. 26, 2013, and Oct. 10, 2013, bomb threats from a park across the street from the Dededo Mall.

On the morning of Oct. 29, 2013, federal law enforcement agents tailed Santos when he left his Yigo residence. He was seen buying a prepaid cellular phone in the Mobil gas station in Route 16 in the vicinity of the Guam Revenue & Taxation building, driving around the park directly across the street from the Dededo Mall, and driving up Carnation Road and Villagomez Road where he made the third bomb threat.

Special agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested Santos later that morning when he returned to the Dededo Mall. Santos told them, among other things, that he called in the bomb threats on those days to avoid attending a small claims court hearing in the Small Claims Division, Superior Court of Guam, Northern Court Satellite, which is located in the Dededo Mall.

The Dededo Mall also accommodates one restaurant, several food concession stands and retail businesses.

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, said, "All bomb threats are taken seriously. To ensure the public's safety and security, law enforcement agencies will use their resources to determine the validity of each bomb threat. Offenders will be held accountable and prosecuted."

The investigation was conducted by the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force-Pacific (composed of the FBI, Guam Police Department, U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service), Guam Police Department, Guam Fire Department, Judiciary Courts of Guam Marshals Office, Guam Homeland Security/ Office of Civil Defense, U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5, Detachment Marianas and the Department of Defense Joint Region Marianas. The case was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Marivic David. ***(USAO)***

USDA welcomes Coast 360 as a new lender for housing program

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seated, from left: Jane Ray, loans manager; Lisa Unpingco, mortgage processor; Mario Palisoc, mortgage officer; Mary Anne Paet, mortgage officer; Susan Flores, mortgage officer; and Irene Palomo, mortgage processor. Standing, from left: Steve Cruz, area specialist (USDA); Bernadette Balajadia, area specialist (USDA); Joe Diego, Area Director (USDA); Richard Northey, CEO, Coast 360; and Anacleto Gatuz, chief operating officer.

TIYAN, Guam—USDA Rural Development welcomed Coast 360 Federal Credit Union as an approved lender for the Guaranteed Rural Housing program. As an approved lender, Coast 360 can now extend 100 percent financing opportunities to eligible rural individuals and families for the purchase of safe and sanitary dwellings in Guam.

"The Obama administration is working on a regional basis to build networks of strong, self-sustaining rural communities," said Chris Kanazawa, state director for Hawaii and the Western Pacific. "Our partnership with Coast 360 Federal Credit Union will expand our capability to reach out to more eligible families who desire to realize their dream of becoming first-time homeowners in Guam."

The guaranteed loan can be used to purchase a new home, build a home, or purchase a pre-existing home and renovate. The loan money can also be used to upgrade water and sewer requirements for the property. The guaranteed loans are for a term of 30 years at a fixed interest rate set by the lender and based on the current market and other criteria. Up to 100 percent financing can be available as there are no down payment requirements.

The home being purchased or built must be modest in size and affordable in cost. If the home is in need of repair, the costs of the repairs can be financed into the loan as long as there is an estimated cost and time frame by which the repairs will be completed. Lenders may also take into consideration energy efficiency improvements of a home.

"Becoming a USDA Guaranteed Rural Housing Lender allows us to make home ownership a reality for our low to moderate income members as well as the community at large," said Richard Northey, chief executive officer for Coast 360 Federal Credit Union.

Since the beginning of the Obama administration, USDA has assisted 218 first-time homeowners with over $39.3 million in GRH funds for Guam.

"These families more than likely would not have been able to finance their home had it not been for our successful partnership with local lenders," said Joe Diego, area director. "With Coast 360 joining our network of approved lenders, more eligible families [in] Guam will be able to realize their dream of becoming first-time homeowners."

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, has a portfolio of programs designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. ***(USDA)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A special happy birthday to a hardworking father/honey Ezra K. Helgen! Wishing you the very best birthday today and many more birthdays to come. We hope your special day will be filled with lots of love and greetings. We love you. With love, your girls.

USDA seeks applications for renewable energy and energy efficiency systems

TIYAN, Guam—USDA Rural Development is seeking interested applications from rural small businesses and agricultural producers for funding to make energy efficiency improvements or to install renewable energy systems.

"Developing renewable energy presents an enormous economic opportunity for rural America," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said. "This funding will help farmers, ranchers and rural small business owners incorporate renewable energy and energy efficiency technology into their operations, create jobs and help America become more energy independent. When small rural businesses and farmers cut their energy costs with cleaner and more efficient energy, we are both helping their bottom lines and reducing the amount of greenhouse gas pollution that affects our climate."

Through its Rural Energy for America Program, grants and guaranteed loans are available for eligible applicants to alleviate the investment for energy systems. Created by the 2008 Farm Bill, REAP was reauthorized by the recently passed 2014 Farm Bill. For fiscal year 2014, USDA plans to award up to $12.3 million in grants and $57.8 million in loan guarantees.

USDA is accepting applications for:

- Renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement loan guarantee and grant combinations;
- Renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement loan guarantees; and
- Renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement grants.

Requests for grants may not exceed 25 percent of a project's cost – either for stand-alone grant requests or for grants combined with loan guarantees.

"This announcement clearly demonstrates the Obama administration's effort to create a clean energy economy," stated Chris Kanazawa, state director for the State of Hawaii and the Western Pacific. "The REAP will enable owners of rural businesses, farms, and ranches to develop renewable energy systems and improve energy efficiency to save thousands of kilowatt hours of energy annually."

Since the start of the Obama administration, REAP has supported more than 8,200 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects nationwide. During this period, USDA has provided more than $264 million in grants and $212 million in loan guarantees to agricultural producers and rural small business owners.

"We want to reach out to more farmers, ranchers and small businesses in the Western Pacific and encourage them to take advantage of this funding opportunity for investments in energy systems," said Joe Diego, area director. "Rural Development understands that investment in these systems can be costly; however, REAP offers an affordable financing alternative to finance these investments," Diego said. "Ultimately, the investment will assist businesses and agricultural producers become more sustainable in the face of rising energy costs in the Western Pacific while at the same time becoming more environmentally-friendly."

American Printing Corp. used a $24,170 REAP grant to help offset the cost of installing a 20-KW photovoltaic, grid interconnected solar system installed on the roof top of the company's building in Tamuning, Guam. Co-owner and manager James Yu, says that "with the doubling of the cost of power, my family's business began looking for ways to control its power bill." With the investment, the business expects their next power bill to be cut in half. "Guam has been our home for over 36 years and knowing we are saving energy while doing our part to save our environment and to make Guam a greener place, is a rewarding feeling," Yu stated.

Information on how to apply for REAP funding and on the application deadlines (which vary by project type) is available on page 25564 of the May 5, 2014, *Federal Register.* ***(USDA)***

Business

GM is fined $35M over deadly defect

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal safety regulators slapped General Motors with a record $35 million fine Friday for taking more than a decade to disclose an ignition-switch defect in millions of cars that has been linked to at least 13 deaths.

Under an agreement with the Transportation Department, GM admitted it was slow to inform regulators, promised to report problems faster and submitted to more in-depth government oversight of its safety operations.

The fine was the maximum the department can impose.

"Literally, silence can kill," Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said, adding: "GM did not act and did not alert us in a timely manner. What GM did was break the law."

Safety advocates said the fine, which is less than a day's revenue for GM, is too small to deter bad behavior by automakers.

Clarence Ditlow, executive director of the nonprofit Center for Auto Safety, said the Justice Department—which is conducting a parallel criminal investigation—should fine the company $1 billion or more and bring charges against GM engineers and their superiors.

"That's the only way you're going to change GM's behavior," he said.

Congress is also investigating GM, and the automaker faces hundreds of lawsuits over deaths and injuries attributed to the ignition switch.

The company has acknowledged knowing that the switches in its small cars had problems since at least 2001. But it was not until February that it began recalling 2.6 million of the cars, mainly Chevrolet Cobalts and Saturn Ions.

AP

This Friday, May 16 2014 photo shows the General Motors logo at the company's world headquarters in Detroit. U.S. safety regulators fined General Motors a record $35 million Friday for taking at least a decade to disclose defects with ignition switches in small cars that are now linked to at least 13 deaths.

Automakers are required by federal law to report safety defects to the government within five days of discovering them.

When jostled, the ignition switches can slip out of the "run" position and shut off the engine. That cuts off the power steering and brakes, potentially causing drivers to lose control. It also disables the air bags.

Taitano BOG's newest VP

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam has promoted Alexandra L.G. Taitano to vice president/wealth management advisor with the BG Wealth Management Division.

Taitano

Hired in 2011, Taitano joined BG Wealth following four years with Merrill Lynch (Guam) as a financial advisor. Prior to that, she was with ASC Trust Company for five years as a special projects manager.

Taitano is a 2005 graduate of the University of Guam and holds the following FINRA Licenses Series 7 —Full Registration/General Securities Representative, Series 66—Registered Investment Advisor, Life, Health and Variable Insurance License—Guam and California. She also received her Professional Designation from the College for Financial Planning: Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor. Taitano is a Board Member, Government of Guam Solid Waste Authority Board of Directors.

For additional information, contact Jackie Marati at 472-5258. ***(BoG)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Kraft recalls cottage cheese due to poor storage

NORTHFIELD, Ill. (AP)—Kraft Foods Group is recalling some of its cottage cheese products, company officials announced Saturday. Some ingredients used in Knudsen Cottage Cheese, Breakstone's Cottage Cheese, Simply Kraft Cottage Cheese and Daily Chef Cottage Cheese were not stored in accordance with proper temperature standards at a Tulare, California, manufacturing facility, they said. While unlikely, the failure to properly store ingredients might have created conditions that could lead to premature spoilage and food-borne illness, Kraft said. The Northfield, Illinois, company voluntarily recalled 1.2 million cases of the cottage cheese as a precaution. The products, with a coded date between May 9 and July 23 stamped on them, were only shipped to stores in the United States. The codes can be found on the cup bottoms or on top of the packages.

Portugal ends bailout constraints; pain won't end

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—Portugal is emerging from the painful economic constraints imposed by a three-year bailout that saved the country from collapse, but EU officials are warning that tough controls must continue to create stable employment. With the government taking control of its finances once again, Portugal on Saturday became the second eurozone country after Ireland to free itself from the austerity and oversight imposed by its European partners and the International Monetary Fund as part of the 78-billion-euro ($107 billion) bailout. But European Commission Vice President Siim Kallas in Brussels it was essential to keep an "unwavering commitment to sound budgetary policies and growth-enhancing reforms." The Cabinet officially took back control of the economy at a meeting in Lisbon and presented its strategy for "medium-term reforms."

Trader appeals to French leader as jail looms

PARIS (AP)—A French rogue trader facing three years in jail for carrying out one of the biggest trading frauds in history appealed to the French president on Saturday, a day before the deadline to begin serving the sentence. Jerome Kerviel, who almost took down his bank, Societe Generale, with 4.9 billion euros in losses, has been on a months-long pilgrimage back to France after meeting Pope Francis. The bronzed and bearded former trader stopped his return just short of the border Saturday. Kerviel, convicted in 2010, insists he was the victim of a system that allowed his illegal trades as long as they made money for his bank. An appeals court threw out a fine equal to his losses, but upheld his prison sentence.

Nation

Weary crews prepare for long wildfire season

ESCONDIDO, Calif. (AP)—The last of tens of thousands of evacuees returned home Saturday after firefighters scoured charred hillsides north of San Diego to guard against a resurgence of flames that ripped through the region this week.

For those battling a series of blazes for days, the relief was mixed with a sense of dread that drought-sapped vegetation, high temperatures and low humidity portend a long fire season ahead.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has responded to more than 1,500 fires this year, compared with about 800 during an average year.

"Normally, I don't even put wildfire gear in my vehicle until the end of April. This year I never took it out," Kirk Kushen, battalion chief of the Kern County Fire Department, said at a base camp in Escondido. "We never really completed the 2013 fire season. It's been a continuation."

At least 10 fires spanning 39 square miles have chewed a destructive path through San Diego County since Tuesday, destroying 11 houses, an 18-unit apartment complex and two businesses. A badly burned body was found in a transient camp, and one firefighter suffered heat exhaustion.

The first blaze was caused by a spark from construction equipment, according to state officials, but it could take months to get to the bottom of the most damaging fires. Alberto Serrato, 57, pleaded not guilty Friday to an arson charge in connection with one of the smaller fires, but authorities say they don't believe he started it, just added brush to it.

In the Central California city of Modesto, a fire fueled by hot weather and high winds on Friday quickly spread to a row of town houses, destroying three of the structures and damaging six others. Authorities said the blaze started on the grassy berm of a freeway project frequented by homeless people.

Ocean breezes and lower temperatures Saturday aided firefighters, who focused on a 1,000-acre blaze on the Camp Pendleton Marine base and a 4-square-mile blaze that started in the suburb of San Marcos.

Firefighters doused remaining hotspots with hoses and water-filled backpacks, sawed large logs and raked soil with shovels and other hand tools to ensure the ground was moist enough to prevent fires from returning.

Kushen, who was working his 10th straight day and was nearly 27 hours into his shift as his team prepared to go rest at a hotel, saw between 15 and 20 destroyed houses or other structures while combing the hills in and around San Marcos for smoke and smoldering brush.

Death in hot jail cell highlights national issue

NEW YORK (AP)—The case of a mentally ill homeless veteran who died in a 100-degree Rikers Island jail cell starkly illustrates the dangers of extreme heat in lockups, an issue facing prisons across the nation as the inmate population gets older and more heavily medicated—and more at risk of overheating.

Inmate advocates point out that many prisoners exposed to high temperatures are unable to cool themselves—by taking a cold shower or by sitting in an air-conditioned room—in a way people living outside prison walls regularly do.

"This is not an issue of comfort and luxury," said David Fathi, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's National Prison Project, who has litigated cases in Wisconsin and Arizona to provide appropriate cooling for inmates.

"Prisons have an obligation, which no one disputes, to provide conditions that, while they don't have to be comfortable, they can't be deadly," Fathi said. "But because of climate change, because of the changing population, heat is a deadly risk for many prisons and jails throughout the United States."

The February death of 56-year-old former Marine Jerome Murdough is a jarring lesson in what can happen when cells overheat, even though it differed from the classic inmate heat death in some significant ways: It happened in the winter and was due to malfunctioning heating equipment rather than scorching outside temperatures.

Officials haven't said exactly how Murdough died. A preliminary city Department of Correction probe found the medical examiner investigator believed he died of hyperthermia, noting that "the heat in his cell caused his body to shut down," according to court documents. One official who spoke on condition of anonymity described Murdough as having "basically baked to death."

California Republicans stress immigration support

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican Rep. David Valadao says he's not worried that Congress' failure to pass immigration legislation will hurt his prospects for re-election to a district in California's agricultural heartland. Same goes for GOP Rep. Jeff Denham, who represents a neighboring district in the state's San Joaquin Valley.

Still, the California congressmen are making sure voters know they support an immigration overhaul. They're aware that Democrats will try to turn the congressional gridlock into an advantage during this year's midterm elections.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce spent $300,000 on television ads in Valadao's district, noting that he is the son of immigrants. Denham highlights an award he received from the nation's largest Latino advocacy group for "putting sound immigration policy over party politics." He was the first Republican co-sponsor of a sweeping immigration bill now stalled in the House.

"People have seen I've shown real leadership in driving this issue forward," Denham said.

Sounding a lot like Democrats, some Republican members of California's congressional delegation are making the case that changing the law is necessary to help farmers and businesses and to keep families together. But they also are members of a party that has stifled immigration-overhaul efforts, providing a political opening for Democrats in a state where immigrants are a crucial underpinning of the economy.

A recent national survey conducted by the Pew Research Center found that about 7 in 10 Hispanics say it's important that new immigration legislation pass this year. And a California Field Poll last year found that 9 in 10 California voters support allowing immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally to stay and become citizens if they work, learn English and pay back taxes.

Valadao, Denham and about a dozen other Republican lawmakers nationally are in districts that have a sizeable and growing Latino population. Latinos make up more than half of the registered voters in Valadao's district and about a quarter in Denham's.

Immigration also could play a role in a handful of open seats around the country, including those in Southern California now held by outgoing Republican Reps. Gary Miller and Buck McKeon. Latino voters make up a third of the electorate in Miller's district, and 1 in 5 voters in McKeon's. Democrats have made both seats a priority.

Asia

Vietnam clamps down on anti-China protests

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnamese authorities forcibly broke up small protests against China in two cities on Sunday, after deadly anti-China rampages over a flaring territorial dispute risked damaging the economy and spooked a state used to keeping a tight grip on its people.

In southern Ho Chi Minh City, police dragged away several demonstrators from a park in the city center. In Hanoi, authorities closed off streets and a park close to the Chinese Embassy and pushed journalists and protesters away. Police were posted outside well-known dissidents houses, preventing them from leaving, according to activists.

China, meanwhile, said it had dispatched the first of five ships to Vietnam to speed up the evacuation of any its citizens wanting to leave.

More than 3,000 Chinese have already been pulled out from Vietnam following the riots this past week that left two Chinese dead and injured about 100 others, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

China deployed an oil rig to a disputed patch of the South China Sea on May 1, triggering fury in Vietnam. Hanoi sent ships to confront the rig in a tense standoff with Chinese vessels. The breakdown in ties between the two countries is the most serious since 1979, when they fought a brief but bloody border war.

AP

Security staff guard the entrance to a Singaporean factory in an industrial park in Binh Duong province, Vietnam Saturday, May 17, 2014, after mobs attacked foreign owned factories following anti-China protests.

Last weekend, Vietnam allowed anti-China protests that drew thousands of people, a rare step widely seen as a way of amplifying state anger against Beijing. Doing so was risky for authorities: dissident groups joined in the protests, and public anger was such that violence was a possibility.

By Tuesday and Wednesday, the protests had morphed into riots targeting factories believed to be owned by Chinese companies. Many of those hit were Taiwanese. The violence caused concern among foreign investors who have turned Vietnam into a manufacturing hub in recent years.

China has loudly demanded Vietnam protect Chinese people inside the country. Many Chinese have left by commercial flights and across the land border into Cambodia, although violence has stopped since Wednesday.

Vietnam's government has vowed to protect all foreign investors, including Chinese, and said it has arrested more than 1,000 people over the rioting. On Saturday, it said further protests would not be allowed.

Pyongyang building collapse kills many

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean officials offered a rare public apology for the collapse of an apartment building under construction in Pyongyang, which a South Korean official said was believed to have caused considerable casualties that could mean hundreds might have died.

The word of the collapse in the secretive nation's capital was reported Sunday morning by the North's official Korean Central News Agency, which gave no death toll but said that the accident was "serious" and upset North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un.

The report said it occurred in the capital's Phyongchon district on Tuesday "as the construction of an apartment house was not done properly and officials supervised and controlled it in an irresponsible manner."

In Seoul, a government official speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the information said that the 23-story apartment building that collapsed was presumed to have housed 92 families.

That could mean that the casualties could be in the hundreds because a typical North Korean family has four members. However, it wasn't clear that all the residents were inside at the time of the collapse, or that four people lived in each household.

It is not unusual for people to start living in apartments before the construction is complete.

The official said he did not have any figure for the actual death toll.

According to the KCNA report, the rescue operation ended Saturday and officials apologized to bereaved families and district residents.

The report cited one official as saying Kim Jong Un "sat up all night, feeling painful after being told about the accident."

The highly controlled state media for the authoritarian regime rarely report news that might be considered negative.

ASIAN BRIEFS

54 bodies found as Bangladesh ferry search resumes

MUNSHIGANJ, Bangladesh (AP)—Rescuers have recovered 54 bodies from a ferry that sank in a river during a storm in central Bangladesh, resuming their search Saturday after protests by relatives of people missing in the disaster. Officials said that 12 people were still unaccounted for, although there has been confusion over how many were aboard the ferry M.V. Miraz-4 when it sank Thursday in the River Meghna. Earlier Saturday, authorities called the search off after retrieving 40 bodies, but hundreds of relatives and local residents protested at the scene of the accident in Munshiganj district, forcing authorities to announce that they would continue to look for bodies.

After huge win, next Indian PM begins victory lap

NEW DELHI (AP)—Thousands of people welcomed India's next prime minister in the capital on Saturday after he led his party to a resounding election victory, with Narendra Modi flashing a victory sign to his cheering supporters and telling them that the win "created a new confidence among people." Results announced Friday from the weeks-long polls showed that Modi and the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party had won the most decisive election victory India has seen in three decades, sweeping the long-dominant Congress party from power. On Saturday, Modi was greeted by roaring crowds outside the BJP's headquarters in the heart of New Delhi, where he met with the party's leadership to discuss forming a new government.

World

Thousands flee, 25 die in record Balkan floods

MAGLAJ, Bosnia (AP)—Packed into buses, boats and helicopters, carrying nothing but a handful of belongings, tens of thousands fled their homes Saturday in Bosnia and Serbia to escape the worst flooding in a century.

Rapidly rising rivers surged into homes, sometimes reaching up to the second floors, sending people climbing to rooftops for rescue.

Hundreds were also evacuated in Croatia.

Authorities said 25 people have died but warned the death toll could rise. Tens of thousands of homes were left without electricity or drinking water.

Landslides triggered by the floods also raised the risk of injury or death from land mines left over from Bosnia's 1992-95 war. The landslides swept away many of the carefully placed warning signs around the minefields.

Three months' worth of rain has fallen on the region in three days this week, creating the worst floods since records began being kept 120 years ago.

Observed from the air, almost a third of Bosnia, mostly its northeast corner, resembled a huge muddy lake, with houses, roads and rail lines submerged. Admir Malagic, a spokesman for Bosnia's Security Ministry, said about a million people—over a quarter of the country's population—live in the affected area.

"Bosnia is facing a horrible catastrophe," said Bakir Izetbegovic, the chairman of the Bosnian three-man presidency. "We are still not fully aware of actual dimensions of the catastrophe ... we will have to take care of hundreds, thousands of people ..."

Izetbegovic was touring Maglaj, hard hit by floods. As the waters mostly withdrew on Saturday, Maglaj was covered in mud and debris, with residents checking damage and bringing furniture out in the streets to dry.

"Everything is destroyed, but we are happy to be alive," said Maglaj resident Zijad Omerovic.

In the eastern Bosnian town of Bijeljina, some 10,000 people were being evacuated Saturday after the rain-swollen Sava River pushed through flood defenses, endangering four villages outside the town. The peak of the Sava flood wave was expected in Bijeljina later Saturday, before advancing to Serbia.

"We need everything, we are underwater," mayor Mico Micic exclaimed.

In eastern Croatia, the overflowing Sava spread over villages and farm land, sending hundreds fleeing.

The rain caused nearly 300 landslides in Bosnia, burying dozens of houses and cars and further complicating relief efforts.

Turkish miner who survived says company to blame

SAVASTEPE, Turkey (AP)—Miner Erdal Bicak believes he knows why so many of his colleagues died in Turkey's worst mining disaster: company negligence.

And he knows one other thing—he's never going back down any mine again.

Bicak, 24, had just ended his shift Tuesday and was making his way to the surface when managers ordered him to retreat because of a problem in the Soma coal mine in western Turkey. Workers gathered in one area to hastily put on gas masks.

"The company is guilty," Bicak told The Associated Press, adding that managers had machines that measure methane gas levels. "The new gas levels had gotten too high and they didn't tell us in time."

The miner also said government safety inspectors never visited the lower reaches of the Soma mine and have no idea of how bad conditions get.

Government and mining officials have insisted, however, that the disaster that killed 301 workers was not due to negligence and the mine was inspected regularly.

Akin Celik, the Soma mine's operations manager, has said thick smoke from the underground fire killed many miners who had no gas masks. High levels of carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide have also been a problem for rescue workers as well.

Bicak, whose leg was badly injured and in a cast, recounted his miraculous escape late Friday while at a candle-lit vigil for Soma victims in the town square of nearby Savastepe.

On Saturday, rescue workers retrieved the bodies of the last two miners missing in the disaster, putting the death toll at 301, Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said.

Summit combats Boko Haram funds, arms, training

PARIS (AP)—Boko Haram has ample funds, highly sophisticated weaponry and advanced training with some of the world's most experienced terrorists, the French president said Saturday as he and African leaders grappled with how to combat the Islamic extremist group whose reach extends to five countries.

Hours after two more attacks in Boko Haram strongholds—one in Nigeria that left a village torched and 40 people dead and another in Cameroon—the leaders agreed to improve policing of frontiers, share intelligence, and trace the weapons and cash that are the group's lifeblood.

At the summit in Paris intended to hammer out a plan to find and free 276 schoolgirls being held hostage by Boko Haram, intelligence officials from the U.S., Europe and Africa shared information while heads of state and top diplomats tackled policy.

"This group is armed, with heavy weapons of an unimaginable sophistication and the ability to use them," said French President Francois Hollande.

He said the weapons came from chaotic Libya, and the training took place in Mali before the ouster of its al-Qaida linked Islamist leaders. As for the money, Hollande said its origins were murky.

"Boko Haram is acting clearly as an al-Qaida operation," said Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, who had only reluctantly accepted outside help after years of insisting the group was a local problem.

Cameroon, which French officials said until recently also treated Boko Haram as a purely Nigerian issue, has become increasingly involved. The attack late Friday against a Chinese engineering firm's camp left at least 10 people missing and one person dead. China is a major investor in the region, helping build infrastructure, public health projects and sports facilities and importing crude oil, timber and cotton.

The camp was in the same nearly trackless parkland where the girls were first spirited away after an attack on their school in northern Nigeria, highlighting Boko Haram's ability to cross borders unimpeded.

An intelligence cell involving French, British and American agents is already operating out of Nigeria, but Boko Haram has seemingly continued to strike unimpeded.

Health & Fitness

CDC: MERS virus spread in US but second man not sick

NEW YORK (AP)—Health officials reported Saturday what appears to be the first time that a mysterious Middle East virus has spread from one person to another in the United States.

ONLINE:
http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/index.html

The Illinois man probably picked up an infection from an Indiana man who earlier this month became the first U.S. case of Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS. The Illinois man, however, never needed medical treatment and is reported to be feeling well, officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

The two men met twice before the Indiana man fell ill and was hospitalized in Munster, Indiana, shortly after traveling from Saudi Arabia, where he lived and was employed as a health care worker. Health officials say they think the virus spread during a 40-minute business meeting that involved no more contact than a handshake.

"We don't think this changes the risk to the general public," which remains low, said Dr. David Swerdlow of the CDC.

The new report also is not considered evidence that the virus is spreading more easily among people than previously thought, he said. The virus is not considered to be highly contagious, and health officials believe it only spreads from person to person with close contact. Many of those who have gotten sick in the Middle East have been family members or health care workers caring for a MERS patient.

The CDC said tests completed Friday provided evidence that the Illinois man had an infection at some point. Since the first man's diagnosis, health officials have been monitoring and testing anyone who was in close contact with him, including health care workers and household members, but none of the rest of them has tested positive for the virus.

A second U.S. illness was confirmed last week in a 44-year-old man from Saudi Arabia who was visiting Florida.

Saudi Arabia has been at the center of an outbreak of MERS that began two years ago. The MERS virus has been found in camels, but officials don't know how it is spreading to humans. Overall, about 600 people have had the respiratory illness, and about 175 people have died. All had ties to the Middle East region or to people who traveled there. There is no vaccine or cure and there's no specific treatment except to relieve symptoms, which include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Not all those exposed to the virus become ill.

MERS belongs to the coronavirus family that includes the common cold and SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, which caused some 800 deaths globally in 2003.

AP

This file photo provided by the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases shows a colorized transmission of the MERS coronavirus that emerged in 2012.

Personal Trainer

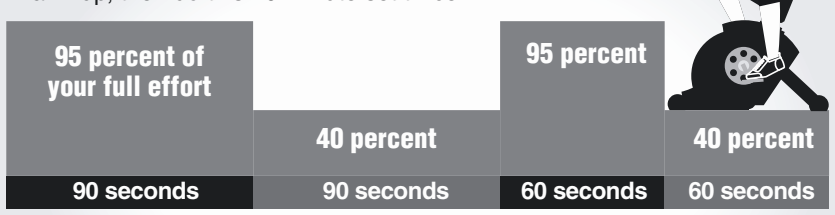
20-minute calorie burners

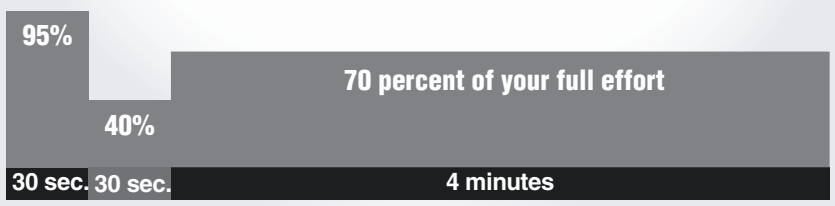
These intense workouts make two of the most popular exercise machines much more effective in burning calories.

Stationary bike

Burns up to **280** calories

Warm up, then do this 10-minute set twice

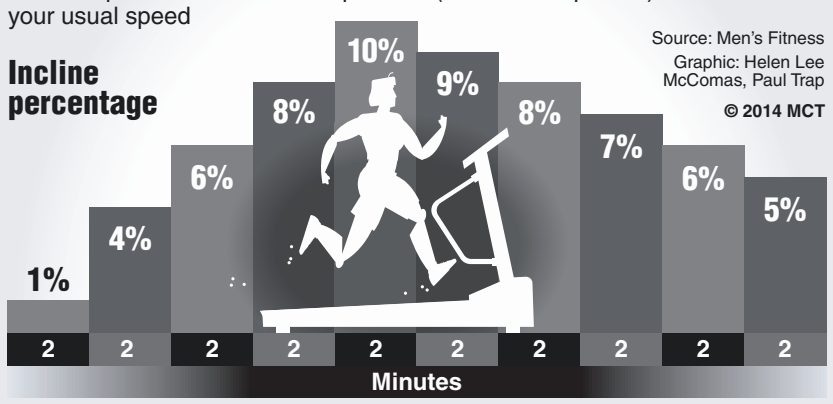




Treadmill

Burns up to **340** calories

Run at a pace about 2 minutes per mile (1.5 minutes per km) slower than your usual speed



Source: Men's Fitness
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

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Life & Style

Oprah helps Walters say 'bye

NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton surprised Barbara Walters as the legendary newswoman taped her final edition of "The View" to end a five-decade career on television.

Actor Michael Douglas, a longtime friend and frequent subject for Walters' interviews, also dropped by for the tribute, which aired Friday on ABC at 11 a.m. (1600 GMT).

Looking smart in a cream-colored blazer and a black skirt, the 84-year-old Walters was presiding over a studio audience of friends, colleagues and fans on hand to witness a bit of history.

Although she will retain a behind-the-scenes role as executive producer of the talk show she created 17 years ago, she is ending her daily on-air involvement, while limiting ABC News appearances to the occasional story or interview.

"I can't believe this day has come, and I can't believe it's for real," Clinton told Walters, who began her career on NBC's "Today" in 1962, then came to ABC in 1976, where her many duties ranged from co-anchoring "20/20" to hosting scores of specials as well as "The View."

Typically, Walters couldn't let Clinton get away without fielding the question on so many minds: Is she running for president in 2016?

"I am running," smiled Clinton. "Around the park."

A bit later, Douglas brought the subject up again with Walters.

"If Hillary runs," he said, "I bet you'd be a great vice president."

Some of the best moments happened during commercial breaks, never to be seen by viewers. Then audience members could snap photos and interact with Walters and her co-panelists (Whoopi Goldberg, Sherri Shepherd and Jenny McCarthy). At one point Walters, spying the New York Knicks basketball player J.R. Smith in the stands, broke up the room by telling him that, now, with retirement, "I just want you to know I'm buying the Clippers," referring to the Los Angeles team whose owner is being forced out by the NBA for making racial comments that were recorded.

The audience erupted at the sight of Winfrey, who told Walters, "You're the reason I wanted to be in television."

"You shattered the glass ceiling for so many women," said Winfrey, who then brought on a startling parade of them, some two dozen prominent on-air women including Diane Sawyer, Katie Couric, Robin Roberts, Gayle King, Connie Chung and Joan Lunden.

"You are my legacy," Walters, visibly moved, said to them as they crowded around her onstage.

AP

This image released by ABC shows, Oprah Winfrey, right, embracing Barbara Walters during a taping of Walters' final co-host appearance on "The View," Thursday, May 15, 2014 in New York.

Turkish film "Winter Sleep" wows Cannes

CANNES, France (AP)—"Winter Sleep," the bookies' early front-runner for the Palme d'Or, the slow-burning but powerful Turkish family drama, is unafraid to tackle Sartrian questions of personal responsibility—and the hate that lurks beneath a seemingly peaceful family.

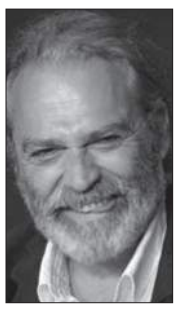
Its director, Nuri Bilge Ceylan, is a Cannes Film Festival darling, having won the Jury Prize in 2011 for the acclaimed "Once Upon a Time in Anatolia."

His film explores the silent life of the easygoing Aydin, played majestically by Haluk Bilginer, who runs a hotel with his wife and sister in a snowy village the rocky Turkish hills.

But all is not what meets the eye—especially when a young boy throws a stone at a car, nearly killing its passengers.

The relationships between the rich Ayudin and the two women slowly unravel to expose tensions over how he runs his life, presiding like a benevolent lord over the village in which he owns property and takes rent from his poor and troubled tenants.

His sister, plagued by boredom (the "sleep") in the quiet village, accuses him of self-importance in the column he writes for the local newspaper. His wife accuses him of selfishness and is considering divorce. But the film, shown through the perspective of Ayudin himself, doesn't really show how Ayudin, a rather kind character, is at fault. The relative virtues and vices of all the characters remain ambiguous—an intentional point.



Bilginer

"It was kind of ambiguous feeling I want to leave behind," Ceylan said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"(Ayudin) has done nothing wrong. Problems between people don't arise because we do wrong. But because we need problems, a certain amount unhappiness in life. We create them," he added.

When the boy inexplicably throws a rock smashing Ayudin's car window, the backstory emerges: his father, a tenant who hasn't paid rent, has been roughed up by one of Ayudin's bailiffs. Ayudin doesn't accept responsibility, since he lets his assistant and lawyer deal with his estate so he doesn't have to deal with the consequences.

The film asks, as did French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre: Where does moral responsibility begin and end?

Ceylan's film ambitiously explores the human soul and poses societal questions that reach far.

He links this week's coal mine fire in Turkey—in which 301 workers were killed—to the message of the film.

"Now there is this big accident, no one will accept responsibility, everybody blames others," Ceylan said.

He said in other countries ministers would resign in similar situations—and says it's the artist's responsibility to stir society.

"I think deceiving yourself is common in Turkish culture ... If we faced with the bitter realities we would be more responsible people," he added

"These kinds of accidents would be less."

Hayek stands out with dress, message

AP

Actress Salma Hayek holds up a sign reading "bring back our girls", part of a campaign calling for the release of nearly 300 abducted Nigerian schoolgirls being held by Nigerian Islamic extremist group Boko Haram, as she arrives for the screening of Saint-Laurent at the 67th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Saturday, May 17, 2014.

CANNES, France (AP)—With a fuchsia strapless dress that accentuated her voluptuous figure, Salma Hayek was already guaranteed to turn heads on the Cannes red carpet.

So she used the opportunity to draw attention to a crisis—the kidnapping of more than 200 Nigerian girls. The Oscar-nominated actress carried a sign with the hashtag "Bring Back Our Girls" as she walked in front of a throng of cameras to a preview of her animated film "The Prophet" on Saturday.

The "Bring Back Our Girls" slogan has been used on social media. Notable figures including U.S. first lady Michelle Obama have posed with the message to urge the return of the girls, taken hostage by the Islamic extremist group Boko Haram a month ago.

Hayek is not the only Cannes participant to use the media to draw attention to a topical event. On Friday, the cast of the Turkish film "Winter's Sleep" held up signs with the hashtag Soma.

Soma is the Turkish city where 301 people were killed in an explosion and fire in a coal mine, the country's worst mining accident.

Baruchel says he lucked out with 'Dragon'

CANNES, France (AP)—Cannes is awash in glamorous celebrities who peacock on the festival's red carpet and confidently parade through its multitudes.

Jay Baruchel is not one of them. He may be the most uncomfortable person in Cannes.

Baruchel readily acknowledges it's "a little intense" for his tastes, which are not exactly red-carpet ready: "I don't like wearing suits or nothin'," he says.

The 32-year-old Canadian actor was in Cannes for the premiere to "How to Train Your Dragon 2," for which (like the Oscar-nominated 2010 original), he voices the main character, Hiccup, the young Viking who befriends the dragons his tribe has long slayed. Baruchel, who broke out in the Judd Apatow TV series "Undeclared," is best known for his comedies, including "Knocked Up" and last summer's "This Is the End."

The anti-Hollywood version of himself he played in that film has some truth to it. Baruchel, who speaks with a Quebecois accent, lives in his native Montreal blocks from his family. "I wish I wasn't known for hating Los Angeles because I spend a good deal of time there," he says.

AP: I imagine that when you, your co-stars and a large model of the dragon from the film were chaotically mobbed on the Croisette in a promotional stunt Thursday, you wondered how this could be your life.

Baruchel: The entire time. Exactly—"If my friends could see me now" type of thing. And what my life was two days ago: I look like a dirt bag more often than not. I'm in my pajama pants 12 hours a day. The biggest thing I had to do two days ago was clean the litter boxes. And here I am on the Croisette and there's people getting elbowed in the head.

AP: You've now spent some seven years on "Dragon," with a third film planned. What's that journey been like?

Baruchel: You can spend your entire career and never be part of something that's half as an important as "How to Train Your Dragon." We all knew it was a good movie, but I don't know if any of us expected to it be a global phenomenon. There're people that adore this movie in the four corners of the worlds. That's insane. I feel like I lucked out. This is my "Star Wars."

AP: It took even longer for Rogen made years ago.

AP

Actor Jay Baruchel poses for photographers during a photo call for How to Train Your Dragon 2 at the 67th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Friday, May 16, 2014.

"This Is the End," which began as a short you and Seth

Baruchel: I really didn't think we'd pull it off. It could have gone so wrong in so many ways. The whole time I was like, "This could be like a two-hour MTV Movie Awards sketch"—all of us playing ourselves, talking about movies.

AP: The hockey comedy you co-wrote, "Goon," has a deserved cult following.

Baruchel: In the States, it's a cult life. In Canada, it was a bona fide, massive hit. We were number one in Canada when we opened, and English-Canadian movies are never number one. ... Our American distributors (Magnolia Pictures) dropped the ball a bit, unfortunately. Their model is all about VOD, which is fine, but the movie deserved a better life. But it's achieved one. Hopefully if we get to make number two—I was writing it in my room yesterday—we'll get to do it properly in the States.

Down with a virus, McCartney cancels Tokyo concert

TOKYO (AP)—Paul McCartney came down with a virus and canceled his Tokyo concert Saturday, but he added a performance to make up for the lost show.

"I am very sorry to all my fans as I was greatly looking forward to the concert, but the situation is out of my hands," the former Beatle said on the official Facebook site for his "Out There Japan Tour 2014."

He said he felt sick Friday, and that doctors told him Saturday to cancel his appearance that night at the National Stadium in Tokyo.

But McCartney said he should be well enough for Sunday's scheduled concert and Monday's makeup.

Organizers said tickets for Saturday's show are valid for Monday, but a refund will also be offered. Ticket prices range from 13,500 yen ($130) to 17,500 yen ($170), and an extra 67,000 yen ($650) payment allows entry into the sound-check.

McCartney is also scheduled to perform at Nippon Budokan hall in Tokyo on Wednesday, and at Yanmar Stadium Nagai in Osaka next Saturday. He then plays in Seoul, before hitting several U.S. venues, including Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles.

Some disappointed Japanese fans grumbled on social networking sites that they had traveled for hours from out of town, while others expressed hopes McCartney would get better soon. The online sites periodically went down Saturday from excessive clicks.

"We are planning to replay this show on Monday. I really hope you can make it. Love, Paul," McCartney said.

Husband thinks less is more when wife budgets for clothes

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have been working hard to advance in my health care career so I can give my family a decent life. I have worked my way up from poverty, paying my own way, earning my degree through the military and sheer determination.

I have reached a point where I would like to enjoy life a little more, but my husband thinks I am being "materialistic." We fight often over my wardrobe spending.

I believe the clothes I wear, mostly nice skirt suits and heels, are part of my job and image. I believe it has helped me to get ahead. I don't buy overly expensive items, but they aren't cheap. I wear the things I buy for years and have a $200-a-month budget for what I may need, even though I don't always spend it.

I think I have earned the right to shop a little, which will ultimately lead to bigger and better things for my family, so why does my husband make me feel so guilty?

CLOTHES MAKE THE WOMAN

DEAR C.M.T.W.: Not knowing your husband, it's difficult to say, but I'll throw out a few ideas. Could he be insecure or intimidated by your professional image? Could he be jealous on some level? In what kind of environment was he raised? Was his mother's "uniform" a housedress?

If you are earning good money and your family is being provided for, then you are certainly entitled to spend some of it on yourself. And you shouldn't have to apologize for it.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am getting married in October, and my fiance, "Brad," and I are having trouble seeing eye-to-eye on the name change issue.

Brad's family is originally from the North, and my family is from the South. He and his family are convinced that I should drop my maiden name, keep my middle name, and take his name as my new last name.

However, the women in MY family have always kept our maiden names, added their new husband's last name to theirs and dropped their middle names.

This is about the only thing Brad and I can't seem to agree on. What can I do when my mother says one thing and my sweetie says another? With your years of experience, I hope you can steer me in the right direction

BRAD'S BRIDE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR BRIDE: It's YOUR name. So do what you are most comfortable doing, because it's the name you will have to carry 'til the day you die (or divorce).

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am under a lot of stress, but the woman I am with doesn't know it. I am 17, and I have been sleeping with my 38-year-old aunty. She's married and has three children. She's my mum's sister. We've slept together seven times and we can't stop doing it. I think I'm in love with her.

I know this is wrong. I need advice. Please help.

LOVESICK TEEN IN THE U.K.

DEAR LOVESICK: Being "in love" shouldn't cause stress; it should relieve it. You know what you are doing is wrong, and YOU must be the adult and end this relationship. If you don't, it will bring heartache and turmoil to you and the rest of the family. By having an adulterous and incestuous affair with you -- her nephew and a minor -- your aunt is behaving like a sexual predator.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

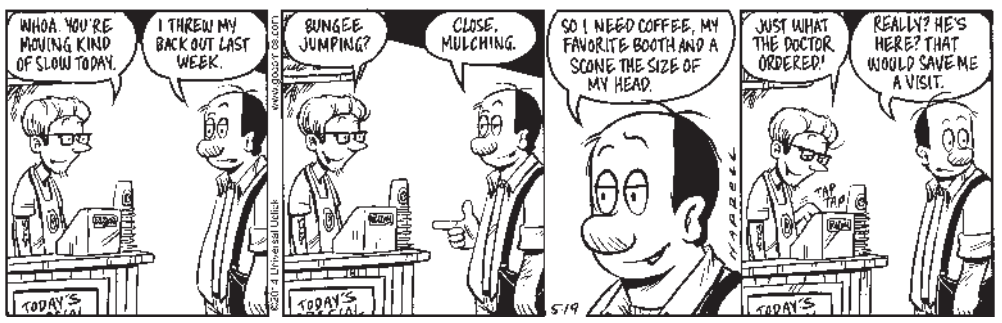
OH MY GOSH!! SOMEBODY BROKE INTO OUR HOUSE!!
I'LL CALL THE POLICE!
WHERE'S HOBBES?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING! LOOK AT THIS ROOM!
HOBBES! OH, I KNEW WE SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT HIM HERE!
MOM, I CAN'T FIND HOBBES! HELP ME FIND HIM! WHAT IF... WHAT IF THEY...
IT'S OK, CALVIN. CALM DOWN. I'M SURE HOBBES IS HERE SOMEWHERE.
I DON'T THINK ANYONE WOULD STEAL A STUFFED TIGER. C'MON, LET'S GO LOOK.
BUT HOBBES IS SO TRUSTING..
SNIF

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

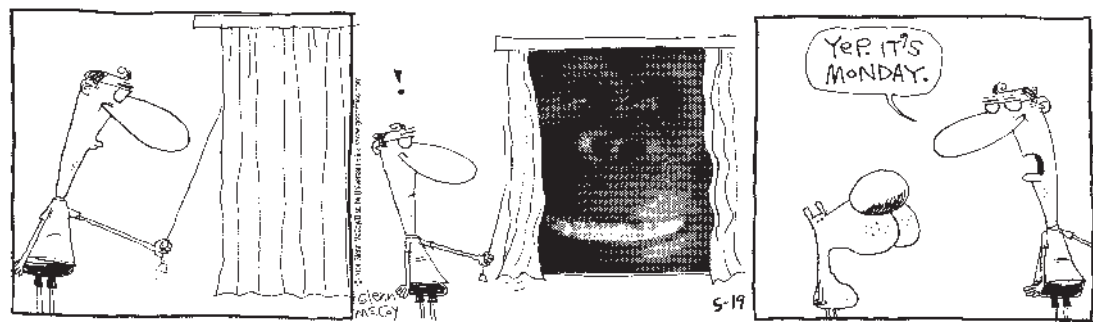
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHOA. YOU'RE MOVING KIND OF SLOW TODAY.
I THREW MY BACK OUT LAST WEEK.
BUNGEE JUMPING?
CLOSE. MULCHING.
SO I NEED COFFEE, MY FAVORITE BOOTH AND A SCONE THE SIZE OF MY HEAD.
JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED!
REALLY? HE'S HERE? THAT WOULD SAVE ME A VISIT.
TAP TAP
5-19

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

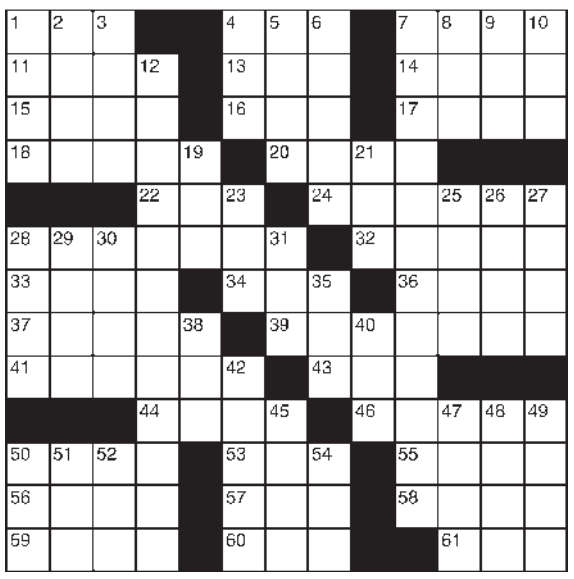
ACROSS
1 Opposite of "post-"
4 Hosp. hookups
7 Busy with
11 Node
13 Former soldier
14 Incite
15 Addict
16 Before
17 Give temporarily
18 Harridan
20 Infant
22 Bill
24 Monsieur's partner
28 Roger of The Who
32 Impresario Sol
33 Vacationing
34 Name
36 Bear's home
37 Film
39 Big Mac ingredients
41 "—, Trains & Automobiles"
43 Four qts.
44 High point
46 Not as narrow
50 Singer Mitchell
53 — Angeles
55 PBS science show
56 Stove compartment
57 Pismire
58 Gloomy
59 Stare stupidly
60 24 hours
61 Matterhorn, e.g.

DOWN
1 Addition symbol
2 Hurry
3 Like a retired prof.
4 "— Got a Secret"
5 Part of speech
6 Fulton's power
7 Eventual swan
8 "The Raven" writer
9 Light brown
10 Peculiar
12 1986 John Hughes film
19 Series of battles
21 "Humbug!"
23 Foundation
25 Caspian feeder
26 Relocate
27 — out (supplements)
28 Moist
29 MPs' quarry
30 Volcanic outflow
31 "Uh-huh"
35 Huge
38 Shoe statistic
40 Crow's cry
42 Diet lunch
45 Hawaiian resort area
47 Nickelodeon's explorer
48 Satanic
49 Freeway access
50 Trot
51 Eggs
52 Fresh
54 Pigpen

Solution time: 27 mins.

P	A	P	A	W	■	A	D	O	■	P	A	S
A	L	E	R	O	■	M	E	W	■	A	N	A
D	E	N	I	M	■	P	E	N	A	L	T	Y
■	■	G	I	A	Z	E	D	■	X	M	E	N
A	B	U	■	N	O	R	■	M	I	S	D	O
I	R	I	S	■	R	E	P	R	O	■	■	■
R	A	N	C	O	R	■	L	I	M	P	E	D
■	■	■	R	H	O	D	A	■	S	E	M	I
V	A	D	I	M	■	O	N	S	■	N	U	N
A	I	O	P	■	C	H	E	I	A	N	■	■
P	E	N	T	I	U	M	■	O	R	A	M	A
O	N	E	■	A	B	E	■	R	E	N	E	W
R	O	E	■	M	A	R	■	M	A	I	I	E

Friday's answer 5-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dario Franchitti, 41; Polly Walker, 48; Grace Jones, 66; Pete Townshend, 69

Happy Birthday: It's what you do for others and how you enrich your community that will make a difference. Picking up information that will enable you to counter any financial, legal or medical issues you face will help you stay on top of your personal situation and maintain the status quo. Stick to the rules and you'll save time and aggravation. Your numbers are 2, 13, 22, 28, 34, 37, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Pick your battles wisely. It's not worth jeopardizing your position or causing an unnecessary ruckus. Time is on your side, so slow down and go over the fine print. Look before you leap. Make a realistic promise. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Stick close to home and family. Protect what you have and nurture the relationships that mean the most to you. A secure and stable environment will bring you closer to your long-term goals. A cautious attitude will help you avoid mishaps. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Be open to new ideas and ferret out information that will make you more competitive. Embrace change and get as much done as possible. Your gung-ho approach to life and work will attract both personal and business proposals. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Talk to people in the know about ways to protect your assets and budget wisely. Taking action is best when calculated strategically. Do your homework before you make an impulsive move. Too much of anything will work against you. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Good fortune is within reach. Do your research and listen to advice offered. Include your inner circle of people in whatever you undertake. A business trip can pay off, but don't overspend on something that isn't necessary. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You mustn't pay for someone else's mistake or try to buy favors. Ulterior motives will get you into trouble and damage your reputation. Stick to the truth and offer suggestions. Lending or borrowing will not turn out well. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Hype mixed with charm, intelligence and a decent plan will help you get your way. Love is in the stars and romance will empower you to improve your life. Don't give in to someone using emotional manipulation. If a move is necessary, make it. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Share your thoughts. Making changes at home that are conducive to a project you want to pursue will encourage you to call up someone you've worked alongside in the past. A partnership can be advantageous if you lay down proper ground rules. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Embrace positive change and initiate what you feel will bring you the most happiness. Romance and sharing with someone special will lead to an improvement in your personal life as well as your reputation. Make a decision and follow through. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Keep a close watch over anyone who tends to be unpredictable. You'll have to counter any bad decision made that can affect your position. Focus on your strengths and you will encourage the people you deal with to do things your way. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Pick and choose what you want to do and to see happen. Take control of your future by following through with the long-term goals you set. Your intelligence coupled with a wise budget will lead to victory and a new beginning. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Do whatever it takes to stabilize your life emotionally and financially. You don't have to follow the crowd. Choose the path that works best for you. Someone will try to mislead you with innuendo. Get the facts before you make a decision. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are inquisitive and unpredictable. You are impulsive and unwavering.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5		9	4	6		2	
4	3					5		7
				7			4	
8			6					2
3		4				6		1
9					4			5
	1			6				
5		6					8	3
	4		5	2	3		1	

Difficulty Level ★ 5/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

9	7	3	5	4	8	1	6	2
6	4	1	9	3	2	8	5	7
8	2	5	7	1	6	4	9	3
2	1	7	6	9	4	5	3	8
4	5	8	1	2	3	6	7	9
3	6	9	8	5	7	2	4	1
1	3	4	2	7	5	9	8	6
7	9	6	4	8	1	3	2	5
5	8	2	3	6	9	7	1	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/18

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BE OPTIMISTIC **Solution: 8 letters**

C	S	C	H	O	P	E	F	U	L	Y	R	R	E	M
D	O	E	I	E	R	A	H	S	W	E	I	V	L	P
E	E	N	R	S	A	T	I	S	F	Y	I	A	S	O
B	S	L	T	U	A	L	I	F	E	R	C	P	F	S
T	R	A	I	R	S	B	T	T	D	N	I	A	N	I
C	S	I	E	G	O	S	K	H	O	H	I	O	O	T
E	T	U	G	T	H	L	A	I	S	T	I	U	I	I
P	A	G	R	H	A	T	T	N	H	T	N	T	T	V
X	B	O	H	T	T	A	O	T	A	I	I	L	A	E
E	L	A	F	I	R	I	G	M	A	N	G	O	U	C
B	E	L	T	I	T	N	R	L	A	E	E	O	T	N
I	E	U	P	A	E	I	D	K	O	N	B	K	I	A
S	D	S	L	R	F	A	V	O	R	B	A	P	S	L
E	N	E	T	F	L	L	I	K	S	I	A	G	U	A
I	R	S	A	G	N	G	J	O	Y	F	U	L	E	B

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Affirmations, Assures, At Ease, Attitude, Balance, Basic, Begin, Best, Bright, Calm, Control, Delight, Drive, Expect, Faith, Favor, Glad, Global, Goal, Health, Hopeful, Idea, Inspiration, Joyful, Life, Manage, Merry, Outlook, Positive, Relationships, Satisfy, Self-Talk, Share, Situation, Skill, Stable, Strength, Trust, Upbeat, Views

Last Friday's Answer: Olympics

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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DAMIANO. LLC.

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises Inc.
is currently seeking
(1) AUDIT CLERK
Interested applicants must e-mail a resume to hrd3@joeten.com
Closing date: May 23, 2014

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Proficiency in AutoCAD 13, Google Sketchup 2013 and Microsoft Office. Respond to N15 Architects by Email to admin@n15architects.com

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Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

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(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

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- **Back-up Generator**
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If interested, send resume and copy of police clearance to
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PMB 400 Box 10005, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 233-5100

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs.	) Civil Action) No. 13-0015)
NICOLAS M. MENDIOLA, Defendant.	) NOTICE OF) AUCTION and) JUDICIAL SALE)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 31st day of July, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgage Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **12th day of June, 2014 at 10 a.m.**, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 345 R 40, situated in Sinapalo I, Rota, as shown in the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 345 R 02 dated December 19, 1983, on file in said office, said land containing an area of 950 square meters more or less.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c) to reject any and all bids.
2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be bind ing, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
3. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (l0%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.
4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 24th day of April, 2014.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

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1-Accountant/Bookkeeper. Salary $5.55 p/h. Accounting Graduate or 4 years College from a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. 5 years or more work experience. Able to prepare payroll, CNMI & Federal Taxes, and Bank Reconciliation. Must have knowledge in Peachtree Accounting System and Microsoft applications.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

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JVA No. 14-031

Opening Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2014
Closing Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Maintenance Worker

Duties: Under the respective division manager or his/her designee. Monitor building security and safety by performing such tasks as locking doors after opening hours and checking electrical appliance use to ensure that hazards are not created. Service, clean, or supply restrooms. Gather and empty trash. Clean building floors by sweeping, mopping, scrubbing, or vacuuming. Follow procedures for the use of chemical cleaners and power equipment to prevent damage to floors and fixtures. Mix water and detergents or acids in containers to prepare cleaning solutions, according to specifications. Strip, seal, finish, and polish floors. Notify managers concerning the need for cleaning and maintenance supplies. Clean windows, glass partitions, or mirrors, using soapy water or other cleaners, sponges, or squeegees. Dust and polish all furnishings. Refill all toiletries and other restroom supplies. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION(S): **Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $12,584.00 per annum.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

POSITION(S): One (1).

Minimum Requirements: High school diploma or GED or ABE. Knowledge of: proper operations and safety with air compressors, floor buffers or waxing machines, personnel lifting and/or climbing equipment, vacuum cleaners. Ability: Lift up to 70 pounds occasionally. Skills in: Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction and to receive work direction. License: Must already have a CNMI driver's license or one from another U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested AND are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Classified Ads

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Heat, Pacers eager for next playoff battle

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Indiana and Miami spent a whole season hearing about the rematch.

On Sunday, the two Eastern Conference heavyweights will meet in the most intriguing fight of the year.

There is the possibility of a head-to-head matchup between the world's best player, LeBron James, and the NBA's next young superstar, Paul George. There are battle lines drawn between Miami's perimeter shooters and Indiana's tough inside guys. There is history with Miami eliminating Indiana each of the past two seasons despite the Pacers pushing the Heat further than anyone expected both times, and, of course, everyone wants to see if the young challengers will derail Miami's quest for a third straight NBA championship.

It's no wonder this is the most anticipated matchup of the playoffs.

"Two best teams in the Eastern Conference. It's that simple," James said. "I mean both teams defend at a high level, both teams share the ball, both teams get into the paint, both teams have a desire to win, so that's why it's been equal."

It's taken three years to reach this point.

In the second round in 2012, the Pacers took a 2-1 lead only to see Miami rebound with three straight wins before winning the first title with James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh.

Last year, Indiana surprised everyone by pushing the Heat to the brink before faltering in a Game 7 loss as the Heat won a second straight crown.

AP

Miami Heat forward James Jones, left, and teammate guard Dwyane Wade smile during NBA basketball practice Friday, May 16, 2014, in Miami.

This season, the Pacers made it clear from the start they wanted the No. 1 seed to assure Miami had to play in Indy if there was a Game 7. That long slog didn't end until the third-to-last night of the regular season, and it's the reason they'll play Game 1 of this best-of-seven series at home.

Still, most observers consider Miami the favorite and with good reason. The Heat swept Charlotte in the first round and beat Brooklyn 4-1 in the second.

Indiana, meanwhile, has been tested. It had to win the last two games to beat Atlanta 4-3 in the first round, beat Washington 4-2 after failing to clinch the series at home and had to block out all the outside distractions emanating from their second-half swoon. And for a change, the Pacers don't seem to mind what's being said.

"I think we like being the underdogs," Lance Stephenson said. "We like when everybody is talking about us. I think it makes our game a little bit better. It makes us want to go out and play harder, so I like being the underdog and everybody talking about us and trying to bring us down but we stay together as a unit, stay poised in the locker room. It just makes us stronger."

■■■

Here are five more things to watch in this series:

BIG ROY: Nobody has been more inconsistent in these playoffs than Roy Hibbert, and yet nobody may be more crucial than Hibbert in this series. A year ago, the All-Star center caused so many problems that Miami signed injury-prone Greg Oden. After an abysmal start to the playoffs, Hibbert regained his footing against Washington. But if the Pacers are going to win this series, they need Hibbert to play well every night.

SMALL BALL: Hawks guard Jeff Teague thought his team provided the blueprint to beating Indiana. Atlanta stretched Indiana's defense by using five 3-point shooters, and when the Wizards copied the approach and knocked down shots, that, too, gave Indiana trouble. Will Miami go small this time? Perhaps, and it may be one way to make Hibbert less of a factor, too.

HOLDING AT HOME: Indiana finished the regular season with the best home record in the league (35-6). It hasn't helped the Pacers at all in the playoffs. Indiana is 3-4 at Bankers Life Fieldhouse, giving away home-court advantage Game 1 losses in each of the first two series. Indiana knows it can't do that this time. "We can't allow ourselves to come out flat," George said. "Whatever it is, we've got to find it and come out with energy-treat this one like it's Game 7."

WADING THROUGH: Miami played it safe with Wade all season, giving his problematic knees extra rest so he could excel in the playoffs. So far, that decision has paid dividends. He has played in all nine games, averaged 17.9 points and 4.0 assists while shooting 50 percent from the field. If Wade continues playing this way, it could spell trouble for Indiana. But this may be his biggest challenge.

DE-FENSE: There is a lot of star power in this series, but ultimately, it will come down to defense. Indiana had one of the league's stingiest defenses all season. Not surprisingly, the Pacers have won in the postseason, too, when they've been solid defensively. Miami might not have the defensive reputation of the Pacers, but they've played well enough to win eight of nine playoff games—and good enough to have beaten the Pacers in their last two playoff series.

Thunder still confident without Ibaka

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Thunder players fondly described Serge Ibaka's contributions to the team this season and explained how much he'd be missed.

Then, they moved on.

Ibaka, one of the NBA's top shot blockers, hurt his left calf in Game 6 of the Western Conference semifinal against the Los Angeles Clippers. A day after the team learned it would likely be without its best defender for the rest of the playoffs, Oklahoma City began practicing for the Western Conference finals against the San Antonio Spurs. Game 1 is Monday night, and the Thunder will take a business-as-usual approach into San Antonio.

"It's unfortunate for us and for Serge," league MVP Kevin Durant said after practice Saturday. "He's a guy that loves the game so much and has to sit out at the peak of the season, being in the playoffs. But it happens in this league. Nobody's ever going to feel sorry for us.

"We're not going to panic. We're going to continue to stick to what we do."

During the regular season, Ibaka had career highs with averages of 15.1 points and 8.8 rebounds while leading the league in total blocks for the fourth consecutive season with 219. The Thunder don't expect to duplicate Ibaka's explosiveness or his ability to protect the rim.

"We're going to play team defense," guard Russell Westbrook said. "We're not going to take the onus on ourselves to block shots and do what Serge does, because nobody can do that."

Brooks wouldn't say how he would fill the minutes or who would start in Ibaka's place. He jokingly named almost every reserve as a possible replacement. Based on past patterns, rookie center Steven Adams and veteran forward Nick Collison will likely step in for Ibaka.

Adams has been exceptional recently. The 7-footer from New Zealand was especially effective in Game 6 against the Clippers, when he had 10 points and 11 rebounds in 40 minutes. He had never played more than 31 minutes in an NBA game.

"It was hard," Adams said. "My body afterwards—I felt like an old man. Going forward, I got familiar with playing while I was fatigued. I'm familiar with it. I need to get comfortable with it."

Adams had gained his teammates' confidence throughout the playoffs. They say he's ready for more responsibility.

"The last two series, he played extremely well for us," Durant said. "Doing anything we need him to do, playing hard, physical. We're going to need him this series to do the same thing. The coaches have been preparing him. He's learning, and he's getting better every day."

Still, San Antonio has to be ready for anything. The Thunder have 10 players who have started at some point this season.

"They are going to change their lineups," Spurs forward Tim Duncan said. "They have a lot of very capable players, very good players and they're a very good team. Obviously, it's big to lose such a part of their team, but we're going to do what we do and show up how we have to show up and bring the energy that we have to bring."

San Antonio's guards, especially Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili, won't find as much resistance at the rim.

"Of course, he's a big part of what they do because defensively he's everywhere blocking shots, and the last few years, he's become a big threat knocking down those 18-, 17-footers," Ginobili said. "He's quite a loss for them. Hopefully we use that to our advantage."

Oklahoma City has been in similar binds. Westbrook and starters Thabo Sefolosha and Kendrick Perkins each missed at least 20 games this season, and the Thunder still finished with the league's second-best record. Because of those experiences, Brooks said the team remains confident it can advance to the NBA Finals.

"We've had to overcome some injuries this past season, and we have an expectation that our locker room sets for themselves to come out and play your minutes hard, regardless of circumstances," he said. "We definitely have enough to still win this series."

Source: Sterling says he won't pay fine

Donald Sterling's lawyer has written the NBA stating the owner of the Los Angeles Clippers does not intend to pay the $2.5 million fine imposed by the league for racist comments, a person with knowledge of the letter's contents said.

Sports Illustrated first reported the letter from Maxwell Blecher. The contents were confirmed by the person who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

Blecher, a prominent antitrust attorney, acknowledged sending a letter but would not discuss its contents Friday.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver banned Sterling for life and imposed the fine following the release late last month of a recording in which Sterling makes racist remarks. Silver also called on owners to oust Sterling from the league, which would require a three-fourths vote among the league's 29 other controlling owners.

"We regard the dispute between Sterling and the NBA to be a private matter," Blecher said. "We do not intend to have a trial in the press."

Blecher said he has known Sterling since the early `80s, when he helped resolve a dispute that allowed the Clippers to move from San Diego to Los Angeles. Sterling has owned the Clippers since 1981. ***(AP)***

Duffy tosses gem as Royals blank Orioles, 1-0

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)—Danny Duffy carried a perfect game into the seventh inning and Billy Butler drove in the only run as the Kansas City Royals held on to beat the Baltimore Orioles 1-0 Saturday.

The 25-year-old Duffy (2-3) retired the first 20 batters he faced, rarely running the count to three balls and flirting with the first perfect game in franchise history. Adam Jones finally ended it with a weak groundball up the middle with two outs in the seventh.

Duffy bounced back to get Chris Davis on a fly out to end the inning, then gave up a single to Nelson Cruz to start the eighth. Wade Davis retired the next three batters, and All-Star closer Greg Holland survived a bases-loaded jam in the ninth for his 11th save.

Bud Norris (2-4) was the hard-luck loser, allowing four hits and a walk in 7 1-3 innings.

Angels 6, Rays 0

In Anaheim, California, C.J. Wilson scattered five hits in his second career shutout and Grant Green homered, leading the Angels over the Rays.

Wilson (5-3) threw 127 pitches, struck out five and escaped a bases-loaded jam in the seventh by inducing his third double-play grounder of the game.

Cesar Ramos (1-3) lasted only 35 pitches, getting charged with four runs and four hits through 1 1-3 innings in his seventh start since he was inserted into the rotation to replace the injured Matt Moore.

Albert Pujols had a run-scoring double to end an RBI drought of nine games and 39 at-bats.

Blue Jays 4, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Kevin Pillar and Jose Reyes had eighth-inning doubles to give the Blue Jays the lead as Toronto beat Texas.

Right-hander Steve Delabar (3-0) retired four straight, including striking out the side in the eighth, to earn the victory.

Toronto has won three straight while Texas has lost four in a row.

Pillar hit a cue shot down the right field line off left-handed reliever Neal Cotts (1-3). Reyes' two-out dunker into right off Cotts scored Pillar.

Jose Bautista homered.

Athletics 6, Indians 2

In Cleveland, Brandon Moss hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs and Josh Donaldson also had three RBIs, helping the Athletics overcome starter Scott Kazmir's ejection in the second inning to beat the Indians.

Dan Otero (4-0) relieved Kazmir and pitched 3 2-3 scoreless innings to help seal Oakland's eighth win in nine games.

Kazmir was ejected by plate umpire Jerry Layne after the left-hander walked Jesus Aguilar on a borderline full-count pitch with one out in the second.

Josh Tomlin (2-1) was the loser.

Tigers 6, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Miguel Cabrera hit a solo homer and RBI single, and Rick Porcello pitched eight solid innings to win his sixth straight start as the Tigers beat the Red Sox.

It was the 10th consecutive road win for the Tigers, who are a majors' best 26-12. Detroit won for the 14th time in 17 games.

Porcello (7-1) gave up one run, six hits, striking out four and walking one. It was the fifth time in six starts he's allowed two or fewer runs.

John Lackey (5-3) gave up more than two runs for the first time in five starts, allowing six—five earned—on nine hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Twins 4, Mariners 3

In Minneapolis, Brian Dozier's three-run homer in the fifth inning put Minnesota ahead for good, and Samuel Deduno tossed six sharp innings for his first win as the Twins beat the Mariners.

With Minnesota trailing 2-1, Dozier followed consecutive singles by Aaron Hicks and Eduardo Escobar by sending a curveball from Roenis Elias (3-3) into the seats in left field. It was Dozier's 11th homer of the season.

Michael Saunders had a homer and two RBIs for Seattle.

Deduno (1-2) struck out four, allowed two hits and retired 18 of the 23 batters he faced.

Astros 6, White Sox 5

In Houston, Jason Castro hit a three-run homer and Dexter Fowler homered and drove in two runs to help the Astros outlast the White Sox.

Houston starter Jarred Cosart (3-3) allowed seven hits and three runs in five innings.

Chicago's Hector Noesi (0-4) gave up eight hits and six runs—five earned—in six innings to remain winless in four starts and 10 appearances this season.

Alexei Ramirez had two hits and an RBI, and rookie Jose Abreu drove in his AL-leading 42nd run with a sacrifice in the third.

AP

Kansas City Royals pitcher Danny Duffy delivers to a Baltimore Orioles batter during the first inning of a baseball game at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., Saturday, May 17, 2014.

Yankees 7, Pirates 1

In New York, Mark Teixeira hit a two-run homer and Zoilo Almonte connected in his first start of the season as the Yankees went deep five times for a victory over the Pirates.

Brett Gardner and Alfonso Soriano also homered off a struggling Edinson Volquez to back five scoreless innings from David Phelps (1-0). Brian McCann added a two-run drive in the eighth.

Starling Marte homered and had three hits in his return to the starting lineup for the Pirates.

Volquez (1-4) gave up six hits—four homers—and no walks in 6 1-3 innings, dropping to 0-4 in his last five starts.

Diamondbacks 18, Dodgers 7

In Phoenix, Paul Goldschmidt homered twice, had a career-high six RBIs and set a team record with five runs scored, helping the Arizona Diamondbacks down the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Diamondbacks hired Hall of Fame manager Tony La Russa as chief baseball officer before the game and beat up on Clayton Kershaw (2-1) once it started, scoring seven runs in the second inning off the two-time Cy Young Award winner.

The Dodgers came storming back with a five-run sixth to pull within 9-7, but Arizona kept hitting to set a team record for runs.

Goldschmidt hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning, added a two-run shot in the eighth and had two doubles to finish 4 for 5.

Arizona hit five homers and had 21 hits, including a team-record 13 for extra-bases to emphatically end a seven-game home losing streak to the Dodgers.

Marlins 5, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Giancarlo Stanton homered and tripled to lead Miami past San Francisco.

Tom Koehler (4-3) struck out seven in seven innings to finally win in five tries away from South Florida after coming into his outing 0-3 on the road to start the year. He allowed four hits and walked two in his first road victory since Sept. 22 at Washington.

Garrett Jones hit an RBI triple, Jarrod Saltalamacchia had a sacrifice fly and Adeiny Hechavarria singled in a run for Miami. The Marlins improved to 11-2 at AT&T Park since 2011.

Tim Lincecum (3-3), coming off his best start of the year with an 11-strikeout performance in a season-high 7 2-3 innings to beat Atlanta on Monday, never found his groove.

Padres 8, Rockies 5

In Denver, Seth Smith homered against his former team early and Carlos Quentin added a two-run, pinch-hit home run as San Diego hung on to beat Colorado.

San Diego staked Robbie Erlin (3-4) to a 6-1 lead by roughing up previously unbeaten Jordan Lyles (5-1), who walked a career-high six batters in a season-low 3 1-3 inning outing.

The Rockies got an early home run from Troy Tulowitzki and chipped away at the Padres' lead, pulling to within a run on Carlos Gonzalez's two-run double in the sixth inning.

Quentin rebuilt the cushion in the seventh, following Yasmani Grandal's two-out single with a drive off reliever Chris Martin that sailed into the left field bleachers for his first home run of the season.

Huston Street, also a former Rockie, got three outs for his 13th save in as many opportunities.

Cubs 3, Brewers 0

In Chicago, Edwin Jackson struck out 11 in seven innings and Welington Castillo hit a two-run double to lead Chicago to victory.

Starlin Castro also added an RBI double for the last-place Cubs, who won just for the third time in 13 games.

Jackson (3-3) had his best outing for the Cubs since signing a four-year, $52 million deal before the 2013 season, allowing four hits and walking one.

Hector Rondon pitched a perfect ninth for his fourth save in four opportunities.

Milwaukee starter Matt Garza (2-4) was tagged for three runs on four hits. The former Cub had his second straight start that he allowed three runs in the first inning.

Cardinals 4, Braves 1

In St. Louis, rookie Kolten Wong keyed the St. Louis offense and Shelby Miller pitched his strongest outing of the season.

Wong scored on Yadier Molina's sacrifice fly just beyond the infield to tie it in the fourth. He bunted for a hit and drew a wild throw in St. Louis' go-ahead, two-run rally off Aaron Harang (4-4) in the sixth.

The Cardinals matched their season high with their fourth straight win.

Miller (6-2) allowed a run and five hits in seven innings, matching his season best with seven strikeouts, including B.J. Upton three times.

Trevor Rosenthal fanned two in the ninth inning, with Upton striking out a fourth time, to earn his 13th save in 14 chances.

Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez was ejected in the fifth inning for arguing a call that led to a bunt double play. He could face a fine for charging out of the dugout a second time.

Phillies 12, Reds 1

On Philadelphia, Cole Hamels threw seven sharp innings to earn his 100th career win and Domonic Brown had a career-best five RBIs as Philadelphia ended a four-game losing streak.

Cody Asche broke Philadelphia's 23-inning scoreless streak with a two-run double that sparked a six-run fourth. Cesar Hernandez capped the scoring with his first career homer.

Hamels (1-2) gave up one run on three hits, striking out 10 on 90 pitches.

Hamels was stuck on 99 wins since last Sept. 14. He improved to 9-0 against the Reds, including the postseason. The Phillies are 12-0 when Hamels starts vs. Cincinnati.

Homer Bailey (3-3) gave up six runs and seven hits in 3 2-3 innings.

Mets 5, Nationals 2

In Washington, Juan Lagares drove in three runs with a homer and a single, and Bartolo Colon allowed five hits in eight innings as New York ended a three-game losing streak.

Lagares came in 5 for 27 in his past 11 games. He singled in a run during a three-run first and homered with one on and one out in the third to give New York a 5-0 lead.

The Mets' outfielder added a defensive gem, robbing Jayson Werth of a home run with a leaping catch against the wall in center.

Colon (3-5) won for the first time in 10 tries against Washington.

Gio Gonzalez (3-4) took the loss.

Rio official: Water pollution targets won't be met

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Brazil will not make good on its commitment to clean up Rio de Janeiro's sewage-filled Guanabara Bay by the 2016 Olympic Games, state environmental officials acknowledged in a letter obtained Saturday by The Associated Press.

In the May 7 letter addressed to Sports Minister Aldo Rebelo, Rio's state environment secretary, Carlos Francisco Portinho, asks for more funding for depollution efforts but acknowledges that at current investment rates, it will take more than a decade to significantly reduce the levels of pollution in the bay, where the Olympic sailing events are to be held.

In Brazil's 2009 Olympic bid, officials promised that the city's waterways would be cleaned up, "setting a new standard of water quality preservation for the next generations."

But an AP analysis last year of a decade's worth of government data on Guanabara and other waterways showed that sewage pollution indicators consistently spiked far above acceptable limits, even under Brazilian laws that are far more lenient on pollution than the United States or Europe.

Authorities pledged to cut by 80 percent the flow of pollution into Guanabara Bay by the 2016 Games through the expansion of the sewage network and the construction of River Treatment Units, or RTUs, built at the mouths of rivers flowing into the bay. The facilities would filter out much of the sewage and trash.

But little progress has been made on either front, and with just over two years to go until the Olympics, nearly 70 percent of the sewage in the metropolitan area of 12 million inhabitants continues to flow untreated, along with thousands of tons of garbage daily, into area rivers, the bay and even Rio's famed beaches like Copacabana and Ipanema.

With Rio in the international spotlight ahead of next month's World Cup to be held in 12 Brazilian cities, the stench of raw sewage that greets those arriving at the international airport, and the stream of images of the garbage-strewn waters of the once-pristine bay, have become a major embarrassment for authorities. Associations representing Olympic athletes have also begun to sound the alarm bells, raising questions about possible health hazards for athletes.

ICS Shooters, Ali'i thwart foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The ICS Shooters and Ali'i barged into the win column in the 2013 DLX/IT&E Invitational Basketball League after outclassing separate foes last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Ali'i prevailed in its first game of the season defeating San Roque Bandits, 61-55, in the curtain raiser, while the ICS Shooters bounced back from a close 61-62 loss to Flip Top last Wednesday after downing JP World in the nightcap, 76-65.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ICS Shooters' D.J. Ong, center, pulls up for a quick shot against JP World's Juan Camacho, left during the fourth quarter of their game in the DLX/IT&E caging last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The ICS Shooters avoided a 0-2 start in the 14-team league after withstanding JP World's late rally. The ICS Shooters led by as much as 15 points in the fourth quarter, 69-54, and were still ahead by twin digits in the last two minutes of the match, 71-56, when JP World made one final push with its 9-0 blast.

Now ahead by only 6 points, 71-65, with 49.6 seconds left in the game, player/coach Ed Echavez called a time out to bring order back to the ICS Shooters. When the game resumed, Leo Galarse attacked the basket and was fouled. He split his free throws to give his team more cushion, while JP World's faltered on its attempt to move close with Juan Camacho missing on his drive.

A pair of free throws from Keoni Charities sealed it for the ICS Shooters, while Don Brennan canned a banked shot at the buzzer, following another botched offensive set from JP World to peg the final score. Brennan led all scorers with his 32 points. He banged in 13 of his total markers in the fourth quarter, helping the ICS Shooters turn a slim 52-48 lead to a double-digit advantage midway in that canto. Galarse was the other double-figure scorer for the ICS Shooters, chipping in 13.

Marlon Sison paced JP World in its debut game with 18 points, while Manolo Manalo added 15. Camacho also finished in twin digits with 12.

In the first game, Ali'i played a better second half after a second-quarter meltdown to win its first game of the season.

After posting a 19-10 lead at the end of the first quarter behind the 10 markers of Kobe Mendoza, Ali'I scored only 8 points in the second quarter to face a 29-17 halftime deficit. Only Ivan Devero drilled more than one field goal for Ali'i in the second canto, while San Roque drew contributions from several players to grab the driver' seat after the first half.

In the second half, Ali'i regrouped with Bart Demapan suiting up in the third after missing the first half and firing the team's first 6 points. He finished the quarter with 8 markers and three of his teammates added at least 4 points apiece, as Ali'i regained the lead, 50-43, going into the final quarter. Ali'i never relinquished the driver's seat in the fourth period, as it countered every basket San Roque converted.

Mendoza top-scored for Ali' with his 14 points, while Devero logged 12. Jaymark De Guzman had 16 for San Roque (0-2).

First Game

Ali'i 61 – Mendoza 14, Devero 12, Peredo 8, Demapan 8, De Dios 6, Garcia 5, Usi 4, Hernandez 2, Velasco 2.

San Roque 55 – De Guzman 16, Mendoza 13, Guiab 10, Fernando 8, Dayrit 4, Mina 3.

Scoring by quarters: 19-10, 27-29, 50-43, 61-55.

Second Game

ICS Shooters 76 – Brennan 32, Galarse 13, Ong 8, Bisana 8, Chariton 7, Babauta 2, Echavez 2.

JP World 65 – Sison 18, Manalo 15, J. Camacho 12, Jose 5, De Leon 4, Schrader 4, Torres 4, D. Camacho 3.

Scoring by quarters: 18-17, 31-34, 52-48, 76-65.

Oosthuizen, Todd share Nelson lead after 3 rounds

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Louis Oosthuizen is still looking for a remedy for his recurring back issues.

A victory at the Byron Nelson Championship would sure make him feel much better.

"The last year and a half was really frustrating," he said.

Oosthuizen birdied four of the last five holes for a 6-under 64 on Saturday and a share of the third-round lead with Brendon Todd. The 2010 British Open champion had the low round of the day after recovering from bogeys on two of the first four holes.

"I made a nice birdie on 5, and just really made some good putts," Oosthuizen said. "Every opportunity I had for birdie I actually made. My eye was good today, and I hit a lot of them really close."

Todd who made 12 consecutive pars before holing a 4-foot birdie at No. 18 for a 68 to match Oosthuizen at 10-under 200.

On the morning of the Nelson's final round last year, Oosthuizen withdrew because of a neck issue. He missed extended time last season, and is still bothered by the back even though he won at home in South Africa in January.

Mike Weir, James Hahn and Gary Woodland were a stroke back.

"That's what I've been working toward the last few years, to get myself back here in this position, and looking forward to the challenge," said Weir, the 44-year-old left-hander.

Weir, the 2003 Masters champion who hasn't a top-25 finish since 2010 when the Canadian had an elbow injury, shot 67 while missing 4-foot putts on Nos. 15 and 16. Hahn's 65 included five birdies in a row on the back nine, and Woodland shot 66 with a double bogey at No. 7.

CNMI

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Michael Mathayomchand for a make-or-break game against Calloud.

In the girls division, Japan's Ayumi Hirata, Hiraku Sato, Asuza Yasaki, and Yurie Takanishi gained entries to the main draw after booting out their compatriots in two sets. Hirata downed Maine Hiramatsu, 6-0, 6-3; Sato prevailed against Minori Otsuka, 6-1, 6-1; Yasaki topped Haruka Okawara, 6-1, 6-3; and Takanishi defeated Yuka Hashimoto, 6-1, 6-0.

In the main draw, the four Japanese will join the CNMI's Tammy Ackerman, Grace Choi Negahr Rastguiy, Mikayla Lopez, Mimi Sakano, and Julia Ishikawa. South Korea, Thailand, Guam, Australia, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Palau, Chinese-Taipei, and several other Japanese players are also entered in the girls singles main draw. In the boys division, the CNMI has Seiya Eda, Luther Lizama, Jake Lee, Colin Ramsey, Michael Ren, Vincent Tudela, Amami Sakano, Tommy Choi, and Moris Villanueva.

The 2014 IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships is a Grade 5 event and an introduction to Junior ITF circuit. Ranking points are awarded to winners of the tournament with 30 going to the singles champion, 20 to runner-up, 15 to the semifinalists, 10 to the quarterfinalist, and five to the losers in the last 16. In the doubles, the points are as follow: 20 for champions, 15 for runners-up, 10 for semifinalists, and five for quarterfinalists. The ongoing tournament at PIC is the second Junior ITF ranking event the CNMI is hosting after bringing the same competition on Saipan last year. It is also the second and last stop of the circuit in Micronesia after Guam hosted the first leg last week.

NMIFA

From Page 28

The list includes Bhutan, Laos, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Kuwait, Myanmar, and Kyrgyzstan. WAP, according to Teo, is a development tool that aims to customize development programs, according to each federation's level of women's football and needs.

"We provide recommendations, assessment, technical assistance, and other resources, such as clinics and training, to help AFC members," said Wong, a former member of Hong Kong's national team.

Teo added once they assess the current state of CNMI women's football, they will provide NMIFA a "to-do list" and expect a periodical progress report from the association. The AFC official is aware of the lower population in the CNMI compared to other countries and that could be a challenge as far as recruitment of female players is concerned. However, because the island is small and people are not far away from each other, it is easy to get the stakeholders together and hear their concerns.

"We've been to many places where you need several days to contact people and get them together in one place. Here that's not a problem, so your FA has to work on that advantage," Teo said.

Meanwhile, Zapanta said they decided to have Teo and Wong meet teachers and officials from CNMI schools because NMIFA believes students will play an important role in the association's plan to further boost its women's program.

"The schools are our biggest source of players. These are where you get to develop young and fresh talents. I hope with the assistance of WAP, their technical expertise, guidance, and resources, we will be able to recruit more and younger players," Zapanta said.

NMIFA, according to Izuka, so far has 320 members with age range from 15 to late 40s.

"There's no age limit, as we would like to encourage everyone to play. However, in the women's league, we accept only players in the 15-and-over age group. We may make some exceptions and accept U14, depending on the situation," Izuka said.

The NMIFA vice president added that members of the women's committee are excited to work with AFC officials.

"We are very interested as this will be the first time we will work together with AFC, exclusively for the women's program. We are growing and it will be great if we could get guidance from AFC on how to run the program easier and more effectively," Izuka said.

FORMER

From Page 28

sive guard. She was selected based on her ability to understand and read plays, agility, and strength.

She also is a sub for the center, who hikes the ball, if need be. The Steel Blazers current win-loss standing is 4-1 with half a season already in the books. She currently wears the No. 72 jersey.

Before moving to Guam a year ago, Mendoza was an employee working of the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality as the Safe Drinking Information System administrator under the Safe Drinking Water Program.

She is married to Raymond P. Mendoza and has three children, Jerry Boy, Jiana, and Kierstin. Mendoza and her two daughters were in a Polynesian group call Pua Hinano of Tekana Hau Nui Dance School of Saipan for over five years and Mendoza was the group's emcee/spokesperson.

Making a big move to Guam to assist her ailing parents, Mendoza continued to do what she loves best by working to protecting the public health and the environment and landed a job under the Safe Drinking Water Program for the Guam Environmental Protection Agency as a Special Project coordinator. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	22	19	.537	–
New York	22	19	.537	–
Toronto	23	21	.523	½
Boston	20	22	.476	2½
Tampa Bay	19	25	.432	4½

Central Division

Detroit	26	12	.684	–
Minnesota	21	20	.512	6½
Kansas City	21	21	.500	7
Chicago	21	23	.477	8
Cleveland	19	24	.442	9½

West Division

Oakland	27	16	.628	–
Los Angeles	23	19	.548	3½
Seattle	20	22	.476	6½
Texas	20	23	.465	7
Houston	15	28	.349	12

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	22	19	.537	–
Washington	22	20	.524	½
Miami	23	21	.523	½
New York	20	22	.476	2½
Philadelphia	18	22	.450	3½

Central Division

Milwaukee	27	16	.628	–
St. Louis	23	20	.535	4
Cincinnati	19	22	.463	7
Pittsburgh	17	24	.415	9
Chicago	14	27	.341	12

West Division

San Francisco	27	17	.614	–
Colorado	24	20	.545	3
Los Angeles	23	21	.523	4
San Diego	21	23	.477	6
Arizona	17	28	.378	10½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

All Schools take center stage

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Last week was a busy one for CNMI students, as they participated in the 2014 McDonald's/PSS All Schools Athletics Championships.

The All Schools tournament dominated last week's headlines with the staging of its running, throwing, and jumping events in various age groups. Koblerville Elementary School emerged as the big winner in the elementary division, winning four categories, while Hopwood Junior High School swept the U14 age group and Marianas High School and Saipan Southern High School split the U18 top honors.

Other notable victories last week were recorded by the Falcons, Braves, and Paire U12.

The Falcons and Braves advanced in the Major division finals of the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball after defeating separate playoff foes. The defending champions Falcons were first paired against Laolao Bay and won the quarterfinals match, 6-1, to march into the semis against the Comets. The Falcons then earned a return trip to the finals after ousting the Comets, 6-2.

In the other semis pairing, the NSA Braves avoided the upset axe of McDonald after posting a 9-7 win. Earlier, the Braves gained a semis berth after downing the Little Legals, 4-3, while McDonald's stunned the third-ranked IT&E in the quarterfinals, 5-4.

In the 2014 FA Boys and Girls Challenge Cup at the San Antonio Elementary School Field, Paire U12 outlasted MP United U12 in a shootout, 3-2, to clinch the championships. The finals went to a shootout after the games remained tied, 1-1, despite the 15-minute extension period. Marty Pangelinan canned the winning goal in the shootout to dethrone two-time champion MP United. Paire won its first FA Cup in the division after losing on its first bid three years ago, incidentally against the same club.

Meanwhile, three competitions kicked off last week with DLX/IT&E and DL Corp. starting its basketball leagues at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court and Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium and Northern Marianas Badminton Association holding the 2014 IT&E Mixed Doubles and Singles Badminton Tournament at the TSL Sports Complex.

Other ongoing contests on Saipan continued last week with the Brewers leading the Yankees, 2-1, (pending last Friday's Game 4 results) in a best-of-five title series in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield and the QQ caging having its regular season games at the Garapan Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of the IT&E-supported Golden Racquets pose for a photo before playing in the opening game of the IT&E badminton tournament last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMBA president Jerry Tan, fourth from left, receiveds the check donation from IT&E executive director for customer service Rob Harrell, fifth from left, for the IT&E singles and doubles tournament during a turnover ceremony last week at the TSL Sports Complex. Also in the photo are other NMBA officials.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Female runners head to the finish line of the mixed relay race in the 2014 McDonald's/PSS All Schools Athletics Championships at the Oleai Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A McDonald's runner is safe at third, as the Braves third baseman still waits for a throw from second base during their semis game in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last week at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants and volunteers in the 2014 McDonald's/PSS All Schools Athletics Championships pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the event at the Oleai Sports Complex last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire U12 players and officials huddle after beating MP United in a shootout during their title game in the 2014 FA Boys and Girls Challenge Cup last Thursday at the San Antonio Elementary School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONRO

Players of the Saipan Stevedore Yankees huddle at the plate before Game 2 of their title series against the GSM Brewers in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Heat, Pacers eager for next playoff battle

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Duffy tosses gem as Royals blank Orioles, 1-0

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CNMI hosts second Junior ITF tourney

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A Japanese female player makes a return from the baseline during the qualifying tournament for the 2014 IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

International junior tennis action is back on Saipan with the staging of the 2014 IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships.

Qualifying games both in the boys and girls U18 singles were played yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts and matches will conclude today, while action in the main draw will kick off tomorrow. Four players moved one win away from notching slots to the boys main draw after winning their respective qualifying matches yesterday.

South Korea's Yohan Sung is among them, as he beat Japan's Daisuke Sumizawa, 6-1, 7-5. Sung will face another Japanese foe in Yu Sasaki for one of the four spots in the main draw. The three other berths will be contested by Thailand's Kittikawin Naksaringcarin, Hong Kong's Wui Wesley Law and Fabien Calloud, Japan's Yuki Watanabe and Eikoh Hayashi, and Australia's Chris Kafataris.

Naksaringcarin drew a first round bye in the qualifier to arrange a date with Law, a 6-0, 6-0 winner over Japan's Kichi Ishida. Watanabe also had a bye, while his second round foe Kafataris nailed a 6-2, 6-4 victory against Denton Ho of Hong Kong. Hayashi played an extended game, slipping past Thailand's

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NMIFA seeks to boost women's program

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association has taken a crucial step in further strengthening its women's program by availing of Asian Football Confederation's Women's Assistance Program.

Julie Teo, head of the AFC Technical Division's women's development, and Betty Wong, women's football manager of Hong Kong Football Association, were in town last week to introduce the program to all the stakeholders in the sport. The two officials met with NMIFA president Jerry Tan, general secretary Ross Zapanta, technical director Johann Noetzel, NMIFA youth and women's committee chair and vice president Vickie Izuka, media representatives, and teachers/coaches from both the private and public schools on Saipan. The visitors discussed how the program works and the things that needed to be done to make it successful in the CNMI.

Teo said WAP was a relatively new program under AFC, as it was introduced last year. Before the CNMI, nine other countries have availed of the program.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta, AFC WAP officials Betty Wong and Julie Teo, and NMIFA vice president Vickie Izuka pose for a photo at the NMIFA office after their meeting last Thursday.

Former Saipan resident plays football in Guam

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Juliana De la Rosa Mendoza, a former CNMI resident, now suits up for women's American football team Steel Blazers in Guam. She is seen here posing with her family.

A former Saipan resident is now playing American football in neighboring Guam.

Juliana De la Rosa Mendoza, a former employee at the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality for over 11 years, suits up for the Steel Blazers, which is an all-women's tackle football team in the U.S. territory.

After one year of settling in her family, Mendoza found herself taking up another hobby aside from Polynesian dancing.

With no knowledge of the sport, she was recruited by a three-year veteran to play for one of Guam's best women's tackle football teams.

Mendoza signed up for the Steel Blazers only to find out she is one of the oldest members in the team.

She said the first two weeks of training was all military-style conditioning. After two weeks, tryouts began. Mendoza tried out for defense only to find out she was selected for the offense instead.

After two months of extensive training and practices, Mendoza earned her spot and placed first string as the offen-

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